



Visitors crowd a shopping area in Shanghai, China. In response to alleged cyberattacks carried out by the Chinese government against the U.S. government, the Obama administration is eyeing fines and other trade actions it may take against Beijing or any other country guilty of cyberespionage.

(AP Photo/Eugene Hoshiko)

US eyes retaliation over China cyberattacks

LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As public evidence mounts that the Chinese military is responsible for stealing massive amounts of U.S. government data and corporate trade secrets, the Obama administration is eyeing fines and other trade actions it may take against Beijing or any other country guilty of cyberespionage. According to officials familiar with the plans, the

White House will lay out a new report Wednesday that suggests initial, more-aggressive steps the U.S. would take in response to what top authorities say has been an unrelenting campaign of cyberstealing linked to the Chinese government. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak about the threatened action. The White House plans come after a Virginia-based cybersecurity firm

released a torrent of details Monday that tied a secret Chinese military unit in Shanghai to years of cyberattacks against U.S. companies. After analyzing breaches that compromised more than 140 companies, Mandiant has concluded that they can be linked to the People's Liberation Army's Unit 61398. Military experts believe the unit is part of the People's Liberation Army's cyber-command, which is under the direct authority of the

General Staff Department, China's version of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. As such, its activities would be likely to be authorized at the highest levels of China's military. The release of Mandiant's report, complete with details on three of the alleged hackers and photographs of one of the military unit's buildings in Shanghai, makes public what U.S. authorities have said less publicly for years. But it also increases the pressure on the U.S. to take more forceful

action against the Chinese for what experts say has been years of systematic espionage. "If the Chinese government flew planes into our airspace, our planes would escort them away. If it happened two, three or four times, the president would be on the phone and there would be threats of retaliation," said former FBI executive assistant director Shawn Henry.

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Ne-Yo, D'Angelo to Headline 2013 Soul Beach Music Festival!

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\$50 million in diamonds snatched in brazen heist at Brussels airport

RAF CASERT
Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — When the armored car set off for the Brussels airport carrying \$50 million worth of precious stones from Antwerp's diamond district, eight gunmen knew all about it. One of the biggest diamond heists in recent memory was about to go down. The thieves surely knew it would be too risky to make their move in Antwerp, which is the world capital of diamond-cutting, 43 kilometers (27 miles) from the airport. The city's diamond industry has some 2,000 surveillance cameras, police monitoring and

Monday evening was finally as good as it gets in late winter in Belgium. Crisp, cold air meant dry roads for a perfect getaway, and winter's early darkness was a blessing for those needing stealth. About 20 minutes before the flight's scheduled 8:05 p.m. departure, the robbers hid in a construction site outside the airport fence. Then they apparently cut through the fence and, in two black cars with blue police lights flashing, speeding straight to pier A, where the armored car had just finished transferring the diamonds to the Fokker. Dressed in dark police

used in the heist but little else. Because of the heist's clockwork precision, there was immediate speculation the thieves had help from the inside. But Bijmens said only that the investigation is still going on. Embarrassed airport officials were left to explain how thieves could so smoothly get in, stage a robbery and make a clean getaway. Diamond industry officials who pride themselves on the security of their trade were equally mortified. Airport spokesman Jan Van Der Cruysse could not explain how the area could be so vulnerable.



Baggage carts make their way past a Helvetic Airways aircraft from which about \$50 million worth of diamonds were stolen on the tarmac of Brussels international airport Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2013. (AP Photo/Yves Logghe)

countless identity controls to protect its \$200 million in daily trade of rough and polished gems. "We are just about the safest place in Belgium," said Antwerp World Diamond Center spokeswoman Caroline De Wolf. And the thieves no doubt realized that once Swiss Flight LX789 was airborne Monday night on its way to Zurich, the diamonds tucked in its hold, it would be too late to get their hands on the gems. But the airport's 25-kilometer fence and the transfer of the diamonds from the armored car on the tarmac to the hold of the Fokker 100 twin-engine jet — now that held potential. After weeks of lashing rain, snow, sleet and black ice,

clothing and hoods, the thieves whipped out machine guns and stopped the pilots and the transport security crew in their tracks. The 29 passengers? "They saw nothing," Anja Bijmens of the Brussels prosecutor's office said Tuesday. The thieves "never fired a shot. They never injured anyone." With speed and precision, the thieves opened the plane's hold, picked out 120 parcels and loaded them into the cars. "Afterward, they made a high-speed getaway," Bijmens said, estimating the whole operation took five minutes. By late Tuesday, investigators had found the charred remains of a van most likely

"We abide by the most stringent rules," he said, noting the same apply to other European airports. Philip Baum, an aviation security consultant in Britain, called the robbery unsettling — not just because the fence was breached, but because the response did not appear to have been immediate. That, he said, raised questions of whether alarms were ringing in the right places. "It does seem very worrying that someone can actually have the time to drive two vehicles onto the airport, effect the robbery and drive out without being intercepted," Baum said, raising the specter of terrorists exploiting such lapses as well. □

Diamonds, anyone? Jewel Heists Of Our Times

BRUSSELS (AP) — Thieves have outwitted armed guards, alarm systems and even airport security over the years, making off with diamonds and other jewelry worth millions. In Brussels, thieves cut through an airport fence, drove to a Swiss-bound plane and snatched an estimated \$50 million in diamonds late Monday. Here are some other spectacular heists in recent memory:

2005: Thieves threaten the guards and hijack an armored car from Dutch carrier KLM's cargo ramp at Amsterdam's Schiphol airport, making off with millions in diamonds and jewelry. Subsequent media reports put the value of the loot at up to \$100 million. "It was a secured area of the airport, so it's a big question how those people could get there," an airline spokesman said at the time.

2003: Robbers tape over security cameras, disable the alarm system and break into the high-security underground vaults of the Diamond Center in Antwerp, the world capital of diamond-cutting, getting away with an estimated \$100 million in goods. After prying open 123 of the 160 vaults, the thieves stood ankle-deep in a pile of diamonds, gold, jewelry, stocks, bonds, cash and lockboxes, police said. The bounty was so abundant they had to leave a lot behind.

2008: While Christmas shoppers stroll outside the posh Harry Winston jewelry shop near Paris' famed Champs-Elysees, armed thieves — some dressed as women and wearing wigs — enter the store and steal gems and jeweled watches worth up to \$85 million, according to

French police.

2009: Two elegantly dressed men rob the Graff Diamond Store in London's posh Mayfair district and carry away necklaces, watches, rings and bracelets worth more than 40 million pounds (\$62 million at today's exchange rate), according to Scotland Yard.

1994: Machine-gun-toting thieves steal \$45 million in gems from the Carlton Hotel in Cannes on the French Riviera.

2004: Twelve pieces of jewelry worth about \$31.5 million, including the 125-carat "Comtesse de Vendome" diamond necklace, are stolen from a store in Tokyo's Ginza district.

2007: 120,000 karats in diamonds, worth \$28 million, are stolen from safe-deposit boxes in an ABN Amro bank in Antwerp, Belgium, according to police.

2008: Masked thieves drill a tunnel into jeweler Damiani's showroom in Milan, Italy, making off with gold, diamonds and rubies worth an estimated \$20 million. The company did not confirm the value of the items.

2002: Thieves break into a Dutch science museum, where an exhibition promised to show visitors how to tell real diamonds from fakes, and made off with real necklaces, tiaras and precious gems on loan from other museums and collections estimated to be worth \$12 million.

1993: Robbers manage to open only five of the underground vaults at the Antwerp Diamond Center, yielding loot estimated at \$4.55 million. □

China cyberattacks

Continued from front

"This is happening thousands of times a day. There needs to be some definition of where the red line is and what the repercussions would be."

Henry, now president of the security firm CrowdStrike, said that rather than tell companies to increase their cybersecurity the government needs to focus more on how to deter the hackers and the nations that are backing them.

James Lewis, a cybersecurity expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said that in the past year the White House has been taking a serious look at responding to China, adding that

"this will be the year they will put more pressure on, even while realizing it will be hard for the Chinese to change. There's not an on-off switch."

The Chinese government, meanwhile, has denied involvement in the cyberattacks tracked by Mandiant. Instead, the Foreign Ministry said that China, too, is a victim of hacking, some of it traced to the U.S. Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei cited a report by an agency under the Ministry of Information Technology and Industry that said in 2012 alone that foreign hackers used viruses and other malicious software to seize control of 1,400 computers in China and 38,000

websites.

"Among the above attacks, those from the U.S. numbered the most," Hong said at a daily media briefing, lodging the most specific allegations the Chinese government has made about foreign hacking.

Cybersecurity experts say U.S. authorities do not conduct similar attacks or steal data from Chinese companies, but acknowledge that intelligence agencies routinely spy on other countries.

China is clearly a target of interest, said Lewis, noting that the U.S. would be interested in Beijing's military policies, such as any plans for action against Taiwan or Japan.

In its report, Mandiant said it traced the hacking back to a neighborhood in the outskirts of Shanghai that includes a white 12-story office building run by the PLA's Unit 61398.

Mandiant said there are only two viable conclusions about the involvement of the Chinese military in the cyberattacks: Either Unit 61398 is responsible for the persistent attacks or they are being done by a secret organization of Chinese speakers with direct access to the Shanghai telecommunications infrastructure who are engaged in a multi-year espionage campaign being run right outside the military unit's gates. □



The building housing "Unit 61398" of the People's Liberation Army is seen in the outskirts of Shanghai, Tuesday Feb. 19, 2013. (AP Photo)



Olympian Oscar Pistorius stands following his bail hearing in Pretoria, South Africa, Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2013.

(AP Photo)

New details emerge in bail hearing for accused athlete Oscar Pistorius

GERALD IMRAY

JON GAMBRELL

Associated Press

PRETORIA, South Africa (AP)

— Oscar Pistorius portrayed himself as a lover caught in tragedy, wielding a pistol and frightened as he stood only on his stumps, then killed his girlfriend after mistaking her for an intruder on Valentine's Day.

Prosecutors, however, said the double-amputee Olympian committed premeditated murder, planning the slaying, then firing at Reeva Steenkamp as she cowered behind his locked bathroom door with no hope of escape.

"She couldn't go anywhere," Prosecutor Gerrie Nel told a packed courtroom Tuesday. "It must have been horrific."

Weeping uncontrollably, Pistorius listened as his words were read out in court by his attorney during the opening of a two-day bail hearing, his first public account of the events surrounding the shooting death of Steenkamp, a 29-year-old model and reality TV star who had spoken out against violence against women.

"I fail to understand how I could be charged with murder, let alone premedi-

tated murder, as I had no intention to kill my girlfriend, Reeva Steenkamp," Pistorius said in the sworn affidavit. "I deny the afore-said allegation in the strongest terms."

It was the first time that the prosecution and Pistorius provided details of their radically divergent accounts of the killing, which has shocked South Africans and fans worldwide, who idolized the 26-year-old track star known as the Blade Runner for overcoming his disability to compete in last summer's London Olympics. Nel said Pistorius committed premeditated murder when he rose from his bed after a fight with Steenkamp, pulled on his prosthetic legs and walked about 20 feet from his bedroom to the locked toilet door and pumped it with four bullets, three of which hit the model.

That contradicted the runner's statement, read aloud by defense attorney Barry Roux, who described how the couple spent a quiet night together in the athlete's upscale home in a gated community in the capital of Pretoria, then went to sleep around 10 p.m.

Sometime before dawn,

Pistorius said he awoke, and walking only on his stumps, pulled a fan in from an open balcony and closed it. That's when he said he heard a noise and became alarmed because the bathroom window, which had no security bars, was open and workers had left ladders nearby. "It filled me with horror and fear," Pistorius said in the statement.

"I am acutely aware of violent crime being committed by intruders entering homes," he said. "I have received death threats before. I have also been a victim of violence and of burglaries before. For that reason I kept my firearm, a 9 mm Parabellum, underneath my bed when I went to bed at night."

Too frightened to turn on a light, Pistorius said, he pulled out his pistol and headed for the bathroom, believing Steenkamp was still asleep "in the pitch dark" of the bedroom.

"As I did not have my prosthetic legs on and felt extremely vulnerable, I knew I had to protect Reeva and myself," he said, adding that he shouted to Steenkamp to call the police as he fired at the closed toilet door. □

California shooting rampage leaves four dead



GILLIAN FLACCUS
Associated Press

TUSTIN, California (AP) — A violent rampage that left four dead began in the pre-dawn hours Tuesday when a 20-year-old killed a woman in his southern California home and sped away in his parents' car, authorities said.

Police investigators examine a gun laying in the street at the intersection of Wanda Road and Katella Avenue in Orange, Calif., early Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2013 near where a body laid moments before. A shooting spree early Tuesday left three people dead and two others injured in Orange County, and the search for the gunman ended when he shot himself to death in a stolen car as police closed in, authorities said.
(AP Photo/Mark Rightmire)

An hour later, it was over — but not before Ali Syed had killed two more people during carjackings, shot up vehicles on a busy freeway interchange and left three others injured in a trail of carnage that stretched across 25 miles (40 kilometers) in suburban Orange County.

One driver was forced from his BMW at a stop sign, marched to a curb and shot in the back of the head as other commuters watched in horror.

"He was basically executed," Santa Ana police Cpl. Anthony Bertagna said. "There were at least six witnesses."

Syed later killed himself. He lived with his parents at a residence where the first victim, an unidentified woman in her 20s, was slain, Tustin police Chief Scott Jordan said. He was unemployed, taking one class at a local community college, Jordan said.

The woman was not related to the shooter and it wasn't known what she was doing at the home, said Orange County sheriff's spokesman Jim Amorino.

Syed's parents were in the house at the time, fled the residence when shots were fired, and reported it, he said.

Jordan said Syed stated to one carjacking victim: "I don't want to hurt you. I killed somebody. Today is my last day."

The killings happened not long after a bloody saga that gripped Southern California for six days, as former Los Angeles police officer Christopher Dorner eluded a massive manhunt after killing three people. Dorner died Feb. 12 from an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head after a fiery gun battle that left one police officer dead.

Americans have been embroiled in a fierce debate over gun violence, as the Obama administration wages an uphill battle to get Congress to approve new gun control laws, including a ban on military-style assault weapons like the one used in a Connecticut elementary school shooting that left 20 children dead in December.

The proposals would not ban the type of shotgun apparently used in Tuesday's shooting spree.

Vice President Joe Biden sought to reassure Americans of that Tuesday as he pushed the government's case in an online video as part of a Facebook town hall hosted by Parents Magazine.

He said he himself keeps two shotguns and shells locked up at home but insisted that nobody needs an assault rifle for protection. He said banning such high-powered weapons would not amount to an infringement on the Second Amendment of the Constitution, which guarantees citizens the right to bear arms.

Jordan said there was no indication of a motive in Tuesday's shootings, but he sought to assure residents that the violence was over. The violence began early Tuesday morning, when deputies responded to a call from Ladera Ranch, a sleepy inland town about 55 miles (88 kilometers) southeast of Los Angeles. They found the woman shot multiple times. □

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Allen retirement opens Europe command slot



Gen. John Allen, the commander of American and coalition forces in Afghanistan, who served until earlier in February as the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, will retire from the military to focus on "health issues within his family," President Barack Obama said Tuesday.

(Bryan Denton/The New York Times)

ROBERT BURNS

AP National Security Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) —

President Barack Obama is looking for a new candidate to lead American and allied forces in Europe after his first choice, Marine Gen. John Allen, bowed out Tuesday and announced his intention to retire for what he called personal reasons.

The move further clouds the picture for Obama as he repositions key figures on his national security team and in key military leadership roles. The White House is fighting for Senate confirmation of Chuck Hagel as defense secretary; a confirmation vote was stalled last week by Republicans but is expected to happen next week.

Obama also is switching commanders at Central Command, which is responsible for U.S. military operations throughout the greater Middle East, and Africa Command.

After meeting with Allen at the White House, the president issued a brief statement praising Allen's service. He called the 57-year-old Allen "one of America's finest military leaders, a true patriot, and a man I have come to respect greatly."

Allen appeared to be a shoo-in as the next top

commander of allied forces in Europe. Obama nominated him last Oct. 10, but in November Defense Secretary Leon Panetta stunned many by announcing that Allen was being investigated for potentially inappropriate email exchanges with a Florida socialite, Jill Kelley. Panetta put Allen's nomination on hold.

Last month, shortly before Allen completed a 19-month tour as the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, the Pentagon announced that Allen had been cleared of any wrongdoing and the White House said it was prepared to re-nominate him for the Europe job.

Even so, it was not clear that Allen would choose to go ahead with a Senate confirmation hearing, given the nature of the email probe. An Iraq war veteran with a reputation as an astute strategist, Allen took over in Kabul in July 2011, succeeding Gen. David Petraeus, who quit to become CIA director. Allen relinquished command Feb. 10 to a fellow Marine general, Joseph Dunford.

Allen said retiring from the military was "the only choice I could make." Although he did not explain his reasons in detail, Allen said "my primary con-

cern is for the health of my wife, who had sacrificed so much for so long." He served 38 years in the Marine Corps.

In retiring, Allen passed up Obama's offer to promote him to the Europe job, which is one of the more prestigious jobs in the military. It carries the dual responsibilities of commanding NATO troops from allied headquarters in Belgium and heading the U.S. European Command, a separate organization based in Germany. The U.S. has about 80,000 troops based in Europe. It's unclear who Obama will nominate for that job. The current commander, Navy Adm. James Stavridis, had planned to leave last year, but was asked to stay on until Allen could take over. □

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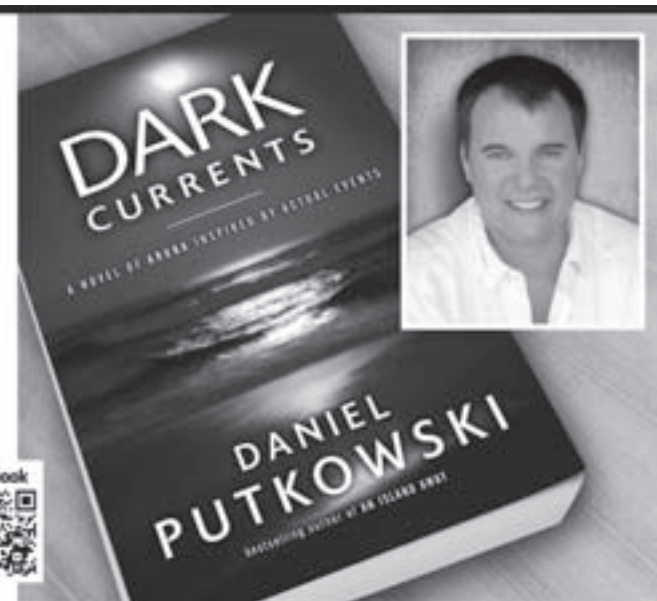
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Supreme Court to hear campaign finance case

ADAM LIPTAK

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WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court agreed Tuesday to hear a challenge to federal campaign contribution limits and issued decisions concerning a drug-sniffing dog, an international child-custody dispute and when the police may detain people while conducting a search.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

In what may turn out to be the most important federal campaign finance case since the 2010 decision in *Citizens United*, the court agreed to decide whether aggregate limits on federal campaign contributions are constitutional.

The case was brought by Shaun McCutcheon, an Alabama man, and the Republican National Committee. McCutcheon said he was prepared to abide by contribution limits to individual candidates and groups, which are currently \$2,500 per election to federal candidates; \$30,800 per year to national party committees; \$10,000 per year to state party committees; and \$5,000 per year to other political committees. But McCutcheon said he objected to separate overall two-year limits, currently \$46,200 for contributions to candidates and \$70,800 for contributions to groups, arguing that they were unjustified and too low.

He said that he had made contributions to 16 federal candidates in recent elections and that he wanted to give money to 12 more. He also said he wanted to give \$25,000 to each of

three political committees of the Republican Party. Each set of contributions would have put him over the overall limits.

In September, a special three-judge U.S. District Court in Washington upheld the overall limits, saying they were justified by the need to prevent cir-

Also on Tuesday, in a 6-3 decision, the court ruled that the police may not stop and detain people without probable cause in connection with a search warrant authorizing the search of a place once they had left the premises.

The case, *Bailey v. United States*, 11-770, concerned

and a key linking him to the apartment — but lower courts refused, relying on *Michigan v. Summers*, a 1981 Supreme Court decision allowing the detention of people in the immediate vicinity of the place to be searched.

Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, writing for the major-



Vernon Hugh Bowman, right, a farmer, on the steps of the Supreme Court in Washington, Feb. 19, 2013. On Tuesday, the court heard arguments about how patent law applies to self-replicating products in the case involving Bowman.

(Christopher Gregory/The New York Times)

cumvention of the basic limits. The court relied on the Supreme Court's 1976 decision in *Buckley v. Valeo*, in which contributions were subject to a different analysis than expenditures (which were at issue in *Citizen United*). The new case, *McCutcheon v. Federal Election Commission*, No. 12-536, may provide the Supreme Court with an occasion to revisit and perhaps revise that distinction.

Chunon Bailey, a New York man who left an apartment in 2005 as it was about to be searched. The police had a warrant to look for a gun, which they ultimately found. They also followed Bailey's car for about a mile before stopping, handcuffing and searching him. Bailey was later convicted of gun and drug charges. He asked the trial judge to suppress evidence from the stop — statements he made

ity, said none of the interests justifying detention of people at the scene had allowed Bailey to be detained. People far from the scene are not able to endanger officers conducting the search or to disrupt it, he said. Nor could the interest in "preventing flight" be stretched, he wrote, to "justify, for instance, detaining a suspect who is 10 miles away, ready to board a plane." □

Official: Bruises found on dead Russian child

**BETSY BLANEY
N. MERCHANT
Associated Press**

ODESSA, Texas (AP) — A 3-year-old boy whose death fueled a fight over American adoptions of Russian children was brought into a West Texas hospital unresponsive and bruised on several parts of his body, a medical examiner's investigator said Tuesday.

Russian authorities have blamed the Jan. 21 death of Max Alan Shatto on "inhuman treatment" at the hands of the American family that adopted him, but the medical examiner's office said it couldn't immediately be determined if the bruises were intentional or accidental. The boy was identified by the Russians as Maxim Kuzmin. Authorities in West Texas continue to investigate the case, and an autopsy is pending.

Shirley Standefer, chief investigator for the Ector County Medical Examiner's Office, says there were signs of bruising on Max's body, including in the lower abdominal area. Max was pronounced dead at a hospital, Standefer said. "Whether it's just normal bruising from a child being a child, or whether those bruises are from something else, I can't confirm or deny this," Standefer said. A full autopsy will be needed to determine what kind of bruising was on Max's body, she said. □



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Concerns over approval of aid for religious institutions

ROBERT PEAR

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WASHINGTON — The House of Representatives has overwhelmingly approved legislation that would allow the use of federal money to rebuild churches and synagogues damaged by Hurricane Sandy, despite concern that such aid could violate the doctrine of separation of church and state. The bill, approved last week by a vote of 354-72, had support from Roman Catholic and Jewish organizations. It was opposed by 66 Democrats and six Republicans.

The prospects for the bill in the Senate are uncertain. Sen. Kirsten E. Gillibrand, D-N.Y., said Monday that she supported the measure and was working to secure its passage in the Senate. She noted that religious institutions like St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church in New York had provided aid to many storm victims.

Scores of churches, synagogues and other houses of worship were damaged — along with homes, schools, stores and roads — when the hurricane battered the Northeast in late October. Congress has provided \$60 billion to finance recovery efforts.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has generally refused to provide grants to rebuild houses of worship. In some cases, federal aid can be used to reimburse houses of worship for social services they provide, and they can sometimes qualify for low-interest loans from the Small Business Administration.

The House bill adds houses of worship to the list of private nonprofit organizations eligible for disaster relief.

Federal law already allows such aid to museums, zoos,

performing-arts centers, libraries, homeless shelters and other private nonprofit entities that provide “essential services of a governmental nature to the general public.”

The House bill would apply to property damaged by the storm and damage from future disasters.

Under the bill, “a church, synagogue, mosque, temple or other house of worship, and a private nonprofit facility operated by a religious organization,” would be eligible for federal disaster assistance “without regard to the religious character of the facility or the primary religious use of the facility.”

Rep. Christopher H. Smith, R-N.J., the bill’s chief sponsor, said, “It’s unconscionable that pillars of our communities damaged by Sandy — synagogues, churches, mosques, temples and other houses of worship — have been categorically denied access to otherwise generally available relief funds.”

The speaker of the New York City Council, Christine C. Quinn, had unsuccessfully urged FEMA to change its regulations without legislation, writing in a letter to the agency: “Recovery from a natural disaster like Hurricane Sandy isn’t a matter of state sponsoring religion. It’s a matter of helping those in need after one of the worst natural disasters our country has ever seen.”

Among those who pushed for the bill was Rep. Grace Meng, a freshman Democrat from Queens. To deny disaster relief to houses of worship devastated by the storm “would be to discriminate against them because they are religious institutions,” Meng said.

FEMA lawyers raised nu-

merous objections to the bill, saying in a memorandum that it represents “an enormous departure” from current law.

That law, they said, requires the agency to distinguish between “worship space,” for which no federal funds are provided, and other space owned and used by religious entities for secular

tents within houses of worship are eligible — including items like stained-glass windows with religious art, arks of the covenant, prayer books and decorative religious icons.”

The Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, an advocacy group, said the bill was constitutional under Supreme Court precedents that al-

payer money can be used to build a religious sanctuary or an altar has consistently been held unconstitutional.”

The American Civil Liberties Union agreed, saying it was a bedrock principle of constitutional law that “taxpayer funds cannot go to construct, rebuild or repair



Abderrhman Settoutf scrapes paint off the ceiling in the basement of the St. George Malankara Orthodox Church of India, which was damaged by Hurricane Sandy and denied federal aid for repairs, in New York. In 2013, the House overwhelmingly approved legislation that would allow the use of federal money to rebuild churches and synagogues damaged by Hurricane Sandy, despite concern that such aid could violate the doctrine of separation of church and state. (Marilynn K. Yee/The New York Times)

purposes, like a school or a community center, for which federal funds may be provided.

FEMA lawyers said the agency’s rules and policies allowed the use of federal money to repair and replace “furnishings and equipment” of eligible nonprofit institutions. The bill, they said, “would thus compel FEMA to make decisions about what con-

low houses of worship to receive “generally available benefits” like police and fire protection and sewer connections.

But Rep. Jerrold Nadler of Manhattan, the senior Democrat on the House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, said: “This bill would direct federal taxpayer dollars to the reconstruction of houses of worship. The idea that tax-

buildings used for religious activities.”

Lawyers at the emergency management agency expressed concern about possible lawsuits by the civil liberties union and others. “FEMA expects that well-financed and aggressive litigation and injunctions would quickly follow enactment of this bill,” agency lawyers said in their memorandum. □

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Chavez's return to Venezuela sparks speculation

JORGE RUEDA
Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Hugo Chavez's sudden return to Venezuela after more than two months of cancer treatments in Cuba has fanned speculation that the president could be preparing to relinquish power and make way for a successor and a new election.

The government is insisting that Chavez remains in charge, playing an upbeat jingle on state television Tuesday with the message: "He's back, he's back!" But political analysts said he could soon take the oath of office in a delayed swearing-in ceremony as a first step toward a formal

resignation, and a transition of power. Taking the oath, however, wouldn't be required for the country's congress and Supreme Court to call a new election.

Chavez remained silent and out of sight a day after his return was announced on his Twitter account Monday. The government said he was continuing unspecified medical treatments at Caracas' military hospital.

"The big question, beyond where the president is, is whether the president is capable of governing," said Mariana Bacalao, a professor of public opinion at the Central University of Venezuela. She said it

seems unlikely that Chavez would be able to overcome his illness.

Even the state newspa-

publicly since before his latest cancer surgery in Cuba on Dec. 11, and critics are questioning wheth-

Chavez's political allies have left open the possibility that the president may finally take the oath of office, a ceremony originally scheduled for last month. But they have given few precise details about his cancer or what sort of "complex and tough" treatment he is undergoing. Aides and politicians in Chavez's camp have said he should be given as much time as he needs to recover. "We can't demand anything more of Chavez. Now we have to see how we can help more, being more efficient, more productive," Aragua state Gov. Tareck El Aissami said on state television on Tuesday.

Bolivian President Evo Morales, a friend and ally of Chavez, met with government officials in Caracas on Tuesday during a brief visit. He later arrived at the military hospital together with Maduro.

Chavez's return came less than three days after the government released the first photos of the president in more than two months, showing him in a bed looking bloated and smiling alongside his daughters. □



Bolivia's President Evo Morales arrives in Venezuela to visit Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez. At center, Venezuela's Vice President Nicolas Maduro.

(AP Photo/Miraflores Presidential Office)

per *Correo del Orinoco* referred to the possibility of a new election in its Monday edition. The top headline, published before Chavez's announced return, reported on a survey by the pollster Hinterlaces that showed Vice President Nicolas Maduro with a double-digit lead over opposition leader Henrique Capriles if a vote were held.

Chavez hasn't spoken

er a leader who has been breathing through a tube and is unable to appear in public is now capable of remaining in office.

"This tension isn't sustainable for much longer. Now that he's here, they can't let another 70 days pass for an image to appear or for him to speak," Bacalao said. "There has to be a convincing response because people are waiting for an outcome."

North Korea warns South of 'final destruction'

BERLIN (AP) — Nuclear-armed North Korea has used a U.N. disarmament meeting to warn that South Korea risks "final destruction."

The comments Tuesday by a North Korean diplomat at the Geneva-based Conference on Disarmament come a week after Pyongyang conducted a

third nuclear test. Several countries, including the United States, Britain and Germany, condemned the latest test at the meeting and urged North Korea to abide by U.N. resolutions barring it from testing nuclear weapons or missiles. South Korea called the tests a flagrant violation

of U.N. resolutions and a threat to the entire international community.

Upon which North Korea's representative declared that "South Korea's erratic behavior would only herald its final destruction."

U.S. envoy Laura E. Kennedy tweeted later that the North's comments had been "offensive." □

SPECIAL

First Course

CAJUN BEEF SALAD
tossed with olives, onions, paprika and chili sauce

SEAFOOD COCKTAIL
with a pink yoghurt cocktail sauce

ESCARGOT A LA CREME
creamy garlic sauce with fresh mushrooms

GARDEN SALAD BOULANGERE
dressed with your choice of dressing

Second Course

SOUP OF THE DAY
home made

Third Course

STEAK DIANE
with sauteed mushrooms tomatoes and herbs

PICCATA MILANAISE
served on a bed of pasta with parmesan

CHICKEN FLORENTINE
baked stuffed with creamed spinach

PLAIN OR STUFFED GROUPER
stuffed with seafood thermidor

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Syria missile strike levels Aleppo district, kills 33



People search through the debris of destroyed buildings in the neighborhood of Jabal Bedro, Aleppo, Syria, Tuesday Feb. 19, 2013.

(AP Photo/AMC)

ZEINA KARAM
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — A Syrian missile strike leveled a block of buildings in an impoverished district of Aleppo on Tuesday, killing at least 33 people, almost half of them children, anti-regime activists said.

Many were trapped under the rubble of destroyed houses and piles of concrete and the death toll could still rise further if more bodies are uncovered. The apparent ground-to-ground missile attack struck a quiet area that has been held by anti-regime fighters for many months, a

reminder of how difficult it is for the opposition to defend territory in the face of the regime's far superior weaponry.

In the capital Damascus, state-run news agency SANA said two mortars exploded near one of President Bashar Assad's palaces. It dealt a symbolic blow to the embattled leader, who has tried to maintain

an image as the head of a functioning state even as rebels edge closer to the heart of his seat of power. No casualties were reported and it was unclear whether Assad was in the palace. He has two others in the city.

The attack was the first confirmed strike close to a presidential palace and another sign that the civil

war is seeping into areas of the capital once considered safe.

"This is a clear message to the regime that nowhere is safe from now on," said Khaled al-Shami, an activist in Damascus reached via Skype. "The fact that they had to announce it means they can no longer hide what is happening in Damascus." □

Romanians alleging illegal trafficking of human eggs

ALISON MUTLER
Associated Press

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP) — Police questioned 30 people on Tuesday and searched the homes of six employees of a private fertility clinic who are suspected of illegally trafficking human eggs and selling them to Israeli couples with fertility problems.

The sale of human eggs for in vitro fertilization is illegal in Romania.

Police said employees at the clinic in Bucharest harvested the eggs from Ro-

manian women aged 18 to 30, some of whom were students, paying them between euros 600 and 800 (\$450 and \$600), then sold the eggs for euros 3,000 to 4,000 (\$2,255 to \$3,005).

Authorities said they would not identify the clinic while their investigation is under way. However, journalists, including an Associated Press photographer, saw hooded police enter the Med New Life clinic in the capital on Tuesday and take an unidentified woman into custody. □



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8 arrested in slaying of Russian councilman

MAX SEDDON
Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Zooming around in a Rolls Royce and boasting of ties to Chechnya's strongman ruler, Mikhail Pakhomov didn't live the life of the average provincial Russian lawmaker. He didn't die the death of one either. Pakhomov, 37, a councilman from the industrial city of Lipetsk, 350 kilometers (215 miles) south of Moscow, was found beaten to a pulp at the bottom of a barrel of cement Monday

after what investigators say was a business deal gone wrong — and a kidnapping that went even worse. Evgeny Kharitonov, a former senior official in the Moscow regional government, was arrested at a Moscow airport Monday and charged with organizing Pakhomov's kidnapping over an \$80 million debt. A warrant was issued Tuesday for his business partner, Sergei Krasovsky. Four other men are charged with the murder-kidnapping, and another

three with a related theft. The case has gathered wide public attention. Some Russians have referred to it as a "postcard from the 1990s," when business, political and criminal interests mixed together and often exploded into violence. The son of a well-known Lipetsk theatrical couple, Pakhomov ran Liter, a construction and transport company. A former Lipetsk police official was quoted by local media as saying he had been arrested for robbing a shop with a well-known mafia gang in 1995 and on suspicion of kidnapping in 2010, but never charged. After a failed attempt in 2011 to win election to Russia's parlia-

ment as a candidate of the Kremlin-backed United Russia, he became a city councilman last October. Despite his modest public salary, Pakhomov lived an extravagant lifestyle. He cruised around in his Rolls Royce, boasted of connections to Chechnya's strongman leader Ramzan Kadyrov, and surrounded himself with women, the newspaper Kommersant reported. Police accused Kharitonov and Krasovsky of turning to unemployed men from the Moscow region to carry out the kidnapping. Several failed attempts to kidnap him were made last year. Finally, last week, he was bundled into a car as he left a restaurant outside



This photo released Tuesday Feb. 19, 2013, shows Russian lawmaker Mikhail Pakhomov who was found dead cemented in a barrel. (AP Photo)

Lipetsk. When Pakhomov resisted, the men hit his head against the car door so hard that he eventually bled to death, local media reported, citing police. □



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Tunisia PM resigns after initiative failure

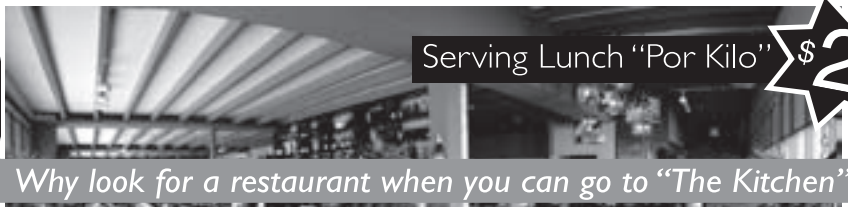
BOUAZZA BEN BOUAZZA
Associated Press

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP) — Tunisia's prime minister announced his resignation Tuesday following a failed effort to form a technocratic government to see the country out of its political crisis. The resignation is expected to further deepen the country's political instability, which earlier Tuesday prompted an international ratings agency to downgrade the government's credit rating. Tunisians overthrew a dictator in January 2011, sparking the Arab Spring revolutions. A moderate Islamist party, Ennahda, won subsequent elections in the country of 10 million, and it has since

struggled to govern in a coalition alongside two secular parties. After the assassination of a leftist opposition politician on Feb. 6 set off riots across the country, Prime Minister Hamadi Jebali offered to dissolve the fractious governing coalition and put together a new government of technocrats — a move welcomed by the opposition. But his own party, Ennahda, rejected his initiative, insisting that the country still needed a government of politicians. The rejection indicated that there not only divisions among the various parties in Tunisia but also within Ennahda. Jebali announced he'd quit after a meeting with President Moncef Mar-

zouki, describing the move as what's best for the country. "I promised if my initiative did not succeed I would resign as head of the government, and this is what I am doing following my meeting with the president," he said at the presidential palace. "Today there is a great disappointment among the people and we must regain their trust and this resignation is a first step." The resignation came the same day that international ratings agency Standard & Poor's downgraded the Tunisian government's credit rating over political instability, a blow to the North African nation's already struggling economy. □

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Ireland apologizes to women of Catholic laundries



Kathleen Janette who worked at the Catholic run work houses known as the Magdalene Laundries reacts along with other work house colleagues after leaving Leinster House, Dublin, Ireland, Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2013. The women witnessed the Irish Prime Minister Enda Kenny make an apology in the Irish Parliament on behalf of the people of Ireland for ignoring them and their treatment at the 10 laundries in the Republic between 1922 and 1996. The women will also receive details of how the State intends to assist them financially and in other ways as restitution.

(AP Photo/Peter Morrison)

SHAWN POGATCHNIK

Associated Press

DUBLIN (AP) — Ireland ignored the mistreatment of thousands of women who were incarcerated within Catholic nun-operated laundries and must pay the survivors compensation, Prime Minister Enda Kenny said Tuesday in an emotional state apology for the decades of abuses in the so-called Magdalene Laundries.

"By any standards it was a cruel, pitiless Ireland, distinctly lacking in a quality of mercy," Kenny said, as dozens of former Magdalenes watched tearfully from parliament's public gallery overhead.

Kenny told lawmakers his government has appointed a senior judge to recommend an aid program for the approximately 1,000 women still living from

the residential workhouses, the last of which closed in 1996. He also pledged government funding for the erection of a national memorial "to remind us all of this dark part of our history."

A government-commissioned report published two weeks ago found that more than 10,000 women were consigned to the laundries after being branded "fallen" women, a euphemism for prostitutes, even though virtually none of them were — and instead were products of poverty, homelessness and dysfunctional families. More than a quarter were directly referred by public officials, such as judges or truancy officers, and all spent months or years in menial labor without access to education. Most did laundry for local hotels,

hospitals and prisons, while others scrubbed floors or made rosary beads for the church's profit.

"The Magdalene women might have been told that they were washing away a wrong, or a sin.

But we know now — and to our shame — they were only ever scrubbing away our nation's shadow," Kenny said.

"I believe I speak for millions of Irish people, all over the world, when I say we put away these women because, for too many years, we put away our conscience."

Kenny's voice faltered with sorrow as he neared the end of his address and addressed the former Magdalenes directly.

"As a society, for many years we failed you. We forgot you or, if we thought of you at all, we did so in

untrue and offensive stereotypes. This is a national shame, for which I say again: I am deeply sorry and offer my full and heartfelt apologies," he said. Lawmakers and spectators applauded.

Opposition leader Micheal Martin, whose Fianna Fail party in government refused calls to investigate the state's role in the laundries, said Ireland spent decades treating the Magdalene women as shameful outcasts.

"They continued to live and work in conditions which were morally unacceptable and should have been stopped," he said.

Tuesday's state apology marks another step in Ireland's two-decade effort to come to grips with the

human rights abuses committed in Catholic-run institutions following Ireland's independence from Britain in 1922, when the fledgling state gave church authorities substantial authority over the education of the young and care for the poor.

Over the past decade Ireland has published five investigations into the church's serial cover-up of crimes by pedophile priests in the Dublin Archdiocese and two rural Catholic dioceses; the sexual, physical and psychological abuse of tens of thousands of children consigned to state-funded industrial schools since the 1930s; and now, as a final piece of that puzzle, the Magdalene laundries. □

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Dissident Yoani praises Brazil for its freedoms

MARCO SIBAJA

Associated Press

FEIRA DE SANTANA, Brazil (AP) — Dissident Cuban blogger Yoani Sanchez expressed admiration Tuesday for the freedom of expression she has witnessed in Brazil — liberties that allowed Cuban government supporters to loudly protest and force the cancellation of the inaugural event of her 80-day international tour.

Sanchez is on her first trip outside Cuba in nearly a decade after repeatedly not being allowed out by the island's communist government. She was permitted to leave under Cuba's recent relaxation on travel restrictions for its citizens, seen by many as a key reform.



Cuban dissident blogger Yoani Sanchez, center, is chanted at by pro-Castro supporters, accusing her of being a U.S. spy, in Recife, Brazil. Brazil is Sanchez's first stop in a three-month tour of 12 nations.

(AP Photo/H. von Manteuffel)

"I've found something here like what Cuba could be in 20 years in terms of diversity of opinion," Sanchez said at a news conference

Tuesday, a day after being besieged by the pro-Cuba protesters.

Asked what role she might have in Cuba's future, San-

chez, 37, said she hopes to be in a Cuban newsroom where censorship no longer exists.

"I have a dream of founding a media outlet in my country because I believe in the power of journalism as a regenerative force," said Sanchez, whose blogs and tweets are sharply critical of Cuba's government and are followed by hundreds of thousands around the globe.

Cuba announced in October that it was eliminating a government-issued exit permit that had been required for the previous five decades for citizens wanting to travel abroad. The ability of Sanchez and other dissidents to actually leave was seen as a key test of that law. Still, some

dissidents haven't been allowed to travel.

Sanchez said that after spending about 10 days in Brazil, she is going to Europe. She'll then head to Mexico for an Inter-American Press Association meeting that begins March 8. She'll then be in Mexico City, where she is scheduled to lecture at universities and where she hopes to eat some "spicy" food. Sanchez said she wanted to start her travel in Brazil because she has received so much support from Brazilians online.

"I'm immensely happy to be in Brazil, not just because I could finally leave Cuba after years of confinement, but because I've found a society whose plurality has struck me," she said. □

Cuba:

US lawmakers get green light to meet jailed American

PAUL HAVEN

Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — U.S. lawmakers met Tuesday with Cuba's foreign minister and have been told they will be allowed access to an American imprisoned in Havana, with the State Department saying they will push for his release.

The delegation, led by Sen. Patrick Leahy, was also hoping to meet with Cuban President Raul Castro before it departs Wednesday.

The detention of Maryland-native Alan Gross has become the chief impediment to improved relations between Washington and Havana. The 63-year-old was arrested in 2009, when he was caught bringing sensitive communications equipment into Cuba during a USAID democracy-building program. He was sentenced to 15 years.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said the lawmakers, including five senators and two representatives, will meet Gross and seek his immediate release.

The State Department will "look forward to the results of their diplomacy on his behalf and, more broadly, with regard to all of our concerns about Cuba, human rights and other things," she said.

Leahy has said he would be thrilled to bring Gross home with him, but added that it was extremely unlikely to happen. The Vermont Democrat led a similar trip a year ago, meeting with both Gross and Castro.

He said Monday that this trip seeks principally to build on the understandings made then and work toward improving relations between countries that have been enemies since before man set foot on the moon.

Leahy and other members of the delegation were seen entering an upscale restaurant in Old Havana along with Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez at midday. They also dined with Parliament Chief Ricardo Alarcon on Monday and toured Ernest Hemingway's former villa.

The delegation also includes Sens. Jeff Flake, R-

Arizona; Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio; Debbie Stabenow, D-Michigan; and Sheldon Whitehouse, D-Rhode Island, along with Demo-

cratic Reps. Jim McGovern of Massachusetts and Chris Van Hollen of Maryland, Gross's home state.

It was the largest group of

senators to visit the island in memory, a sign of growing interest on Capitol Hill.

Cuba has expressed a desire to exchange Gross for at least some of the five Cuban intelligence agents who have been sentenced to long jail terms in the United States.

Washington has said publicly that a swap is not in the cards, but there are other points of contention that might be easier to move on, including possibly removing Cuba from a list of state sponsors of terror.

The island made the list in large part because it supposedly harbored members of the Basque militant group ETA and Colombia's FARC rebels. But ETA announced a permanent cease fire in 2011, and Cuba is currently playing host to peace talks between Colombia and the FARC.

Cuban diplomats point out that even North Korea, which earned global condemnation when it held an underground nuclear test earlier this month, is not on the terror sponsor list. □



U.S. Sen. Patrick Leahy, center, accompanied by U.S. Congressman Jim McGovern, left, in Havana, Cuba.
(AP Photo/Franklin Reyes)



Ne-Yo, D'Angelo to Headline 2013 Soul Beach Music Festival!

- Headliner Sinbad Featuring Paige Bryan with Memphis Red and The Funk Stank Nasty Band Kicks-Off Memorial Day Weekend with A Night of Funk and Comedy!

ORANJESTAD - What better way to spend your Memorial Day Weekend than in paradise watching Ne-Yo and D'Angelo take the stage? Along with comedian Sinbad and other performances yet to be announced, the two stars will do just that starting May 22nd at the Soul Beach Music Festival on the island of Aruba.

Soul Beach Music Festival is thrilled to announce the addition of Grammy-Award winning singer D'Angelo to the spectacular line-up of musical brilliance as he joins three-time Grammy Award-Winning Ne-Yo on the main stage of the Nikky Beach Amphitheatre in Aruba on Memorial Day weekend. D'Angelo will take to the stage with a luminous show on Satur-

day, May 25 and Ne-Yo will close out the three-night main stage spectacle with an iridescent performance on Sunday, May 26. Bringing the funk to the all-star comedy night will be Sinbad featuring Paige Bryan with Memphis Red and the Funk Stank Nasty Band - A Night of Funk and Comedy on Friday, May 24. Additional artists will be announced soon.

The 2013 Soul Beach Music Festival will roll out more highly anticipated announcements of main stage performing artists in the weeks to come. For information about ticket sales, accommodations and the latest updates sign up for CLUB SOUL BEACH, visit www.soulbeach.net or www.aruba.com. Join the Soul Beach Music Festival community: follow us on Twitter @SoulBeachMusic and become a fan of 2013 Soul Beach Music Festival on www.Facebook.com/soulbeachmusic.

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PALM BEACH - Some in these words some in other words but with same honesty and same sentiment are recommending The Blue Lobster Restaurant to friends, family and acquaintances, with no doubt, for these clients are so sure recommending The Blue Lobster Restaurant will not let their friends and themselves down. Some tell the owner Mr. German. ... you did a good move by adjusting your prices to be more on the low side, and still

keeping the same food quality and service. Many are the clients coming back to repeat the same good dining experience they had last year, and brought their friends and family to make them acquainted with this wonderful culinary experience. By now 60% of The Blue Lobster Restaurant's business comes from repeat guests, while the other 40% are first timers. Many reasons for these high

figures, still word of mouth is the best advertising one can have, and is The Blue Lobster's main costumer generating source. The next reason is the friendly and professional service, The Blue Lobster's seal of guarantee, and last but not least, the great value for the money. We have been told that constant promotions and specials are Blue Lobster's strategy to maintain its clients interested in keep on coming back, for it is very difficult to find a good restaurant with excellent food and still get a good bargain. For example was confirmed that right now there is the best promotion ever. On Wednesdays and Saturdays you can get APPETIZER, MAIN DISH, DESSERT PLUS ONE BOTTLE OF HOUSE WINE PER TABLE FOR UNDER \$37.00 PER PERSON. A repeat visitor commented that he did not know about this promotion but still was granted to him and his family and was fully informed to



them upon being seated last Saturday. His wife enjoyed a great 8Oz Lobster tail; His son took a Lobster termidor. He himself not much of a lobster lover was surprised with a 16 Oz T-BONE STEAK. While his daughter was very happy she chose a combo of lobster- shrimp and grouper.' What a feast,' he said, 'and for a real good price too.'

PERIENCED International Chef Sandro, orchestrating a symphony of good food with an out-of-this-world presentation. Where ARTUR, MARIO, CARLOS and ALBITA are the heart of the operation by making sure the quality and presentation of The Blue Lobster's food comes with the already well known high standards. This Valentines' Day 2013 will go in history as the best Valentines' Day for many couples and friends who decide to visit The Blue Lobster Restaurant. For this will be a special day, and a very special menu will be waiting. APPETIZER, MAIN DISH, DESSERT, AND A BOTTLE OF FRENCH CHAMPAGNE OR HOUSEWINE will become the Lover's Package for this special date. Under 37 bucks per person. But this does not end there... said Mr. Castano. On this Valentines' Day, ladies will receive a surprise gift at the end of the dinner (or lunch) while the gentleman will receive a secret card where they must write a beautiful thought about his couple. This secret card will be kept by the supervisor and delivered to the lady at the end. Of course ladies will be welcomed with a BEUTIFUL RED ROSE. So THE BLUE LOBSTER never stops surprising its clientele. With so much going on at THE BLUE LOBSTER missing this restaurant while in Aruba would be a real shame. So don't miss it... go there and have fun, and an unforgettable experience!□

'The Blue Lobster will be high in our list of 'Must Visit' restaurants when we come back to Aruba,' concluded this happy customer. Talking to the staff it was a pleasure, for the first enthusiastic and dedicated person we found was The restaurant supervisor Ms. HAIDY SCHEEPERS a great believer of The Blue Lobster's mission, already working at this magnificent restaurant for over a year, next Ms Michelle, great worker compiling the most best comments from the clients she takes care of. Offering a great sincere smile always, Ms. Arianne, preparing wonderful cocktails and the specialty of the house, THE BLUE MOJITO. Then Mr. Luis, an eager and positive young waiter bringing to The Blue Lobster his experience acquired while working at several important restaurants in USA and at one of the most important social clubs from Colombia. Luis said being very proud to have served a president (The Colombian President). Luis is a graduate from EPI school in Aruba. In the Kitchen a great crew starting with The MICHELIN EX-

Beauty On The Beach

Jennifer Boling

She is from Columbus Ohio, it is her first time in Aruba, she is on vacation with some friends having a blast on Aruba's Beach.



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Tiara Air Aruba enhances service with new website

ORANJESTAD - Tiara Air Aruba launches a new customer website, www.tiara-air.com, that further strengthens Tiara Air Aruba's position and services in the Caribbean and in the Americas.

Unveiling the new digital presence, the website features new and existing destinations that Tiara Air Aruba has to offer the discerning business and leisure traveler, including destinations from Caracas, Aruba, Medellin and Fort

Lauderdale, Florida.

"Tiara Air Aruba is very excited about the launch of the new website. In a world that is shifting from traditional to digital marketing it's important that you follow the trends and have a website that is visible, user friendly and assessable," says Marketing Manager, Malinda Hassell.

The purpose of the new website is to better service existing and new customers and continue increasing awareness to the differ-

ent services and destinations Tiara Air has to offer. Visitors can easily plan and book their flights online, receive special offers, get flights updates and more! In the coming month the site will also be available in a mobile friendly version and in Spanish to better serve the growing customer base in Latin America.

"We are very honored to have been awarded the opportunity to work with such a forward looking airline as Tiara Air Aruba. Our overall goal was to create first class customer experience online. Planning your holiday or business trip on the new Tiara website should be as friendly and professional as their in-flight service," announced Kristjana Thorvalds, Director of Digital Strategy at Expandeer.com.

Expandeer is a digital marketing agency that specializes in marketing automation, digital services and social content. We help



companies look beyond traditional mass marketing and implement digital solutions to enable more predictable, rapid and profitable revenue growth. Expandeer is headquartered

in Amsterdam, Netherlands with consultant teams in Argentina and Aruba, Dutch Caribbean.

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We invite you to visit tiara-air.com. □

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An inviting scene at Ginger restaurant.



The Shops At Alhambra light up the night!

world like Subway, Baskin Robbins, Little Caesars, and Dunkin Donuts. The Market has special prices on their island-famous roast chicken and ribs. Get your 10% discount at Aruba Memories and Daher & Co. Receive a free gift with purchase of selected items at the Lazy Lizard, Aruba Aloe and R-Glass. Impressive is the collection of jewelry at Diamonds International. You will not regret trying the 3-course dinner for only \$25 at Ginger, which also has

the best sushi on the island! It's happy hour at Fusion from 7-9pm, so come and get happy, and you can try the 'granizado' and receive one free at Juan Valdez. Stay stress free at Intermezzo, offering a free chair massage from 6-9pm. After shopping you and your family can sit and enjoy live music.

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CASINO AND SHOPS



Goal-line technology to be used at WCup

GRAHAM DUNBAR
AP Sports Writer

GENEVA (AP) — FIFA committed Tuesday to using goal-line technology at the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, and could have four systems competing for selection.

FIFA said it is now seeking tenders from companies which want their system to be used at the Confederations Cup in June and next year's World Cup.

"Interested GLT companies will be invited to join an inspection visit to the Confederations Cup venues, currently scheduled for mid-March, with a final decision due to be confirmed in early April," FIFA said in a statement.

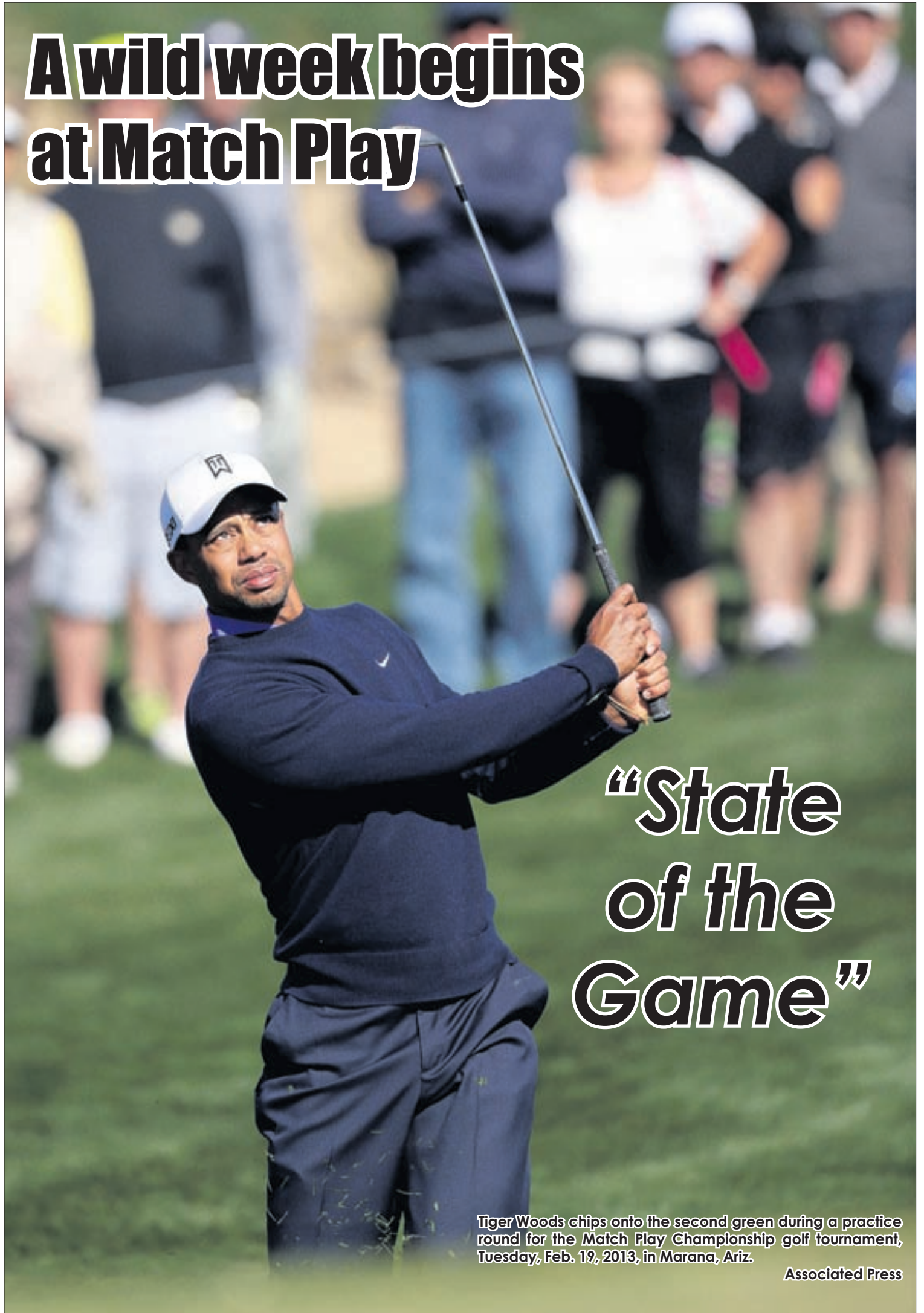
FIFA President Sepp Blatter insisted on giving World Cup referees high-tech aids to rule on disputed goal-line incidents after seeing England midfielder Frank Lampard have a clear goal denied against Germany at the 2010 tournament in South Africa.

The English Premier League also said Tuesday that plans are on course to introduce goal-line technology by the start of the new season in August.

The decision by FIFA was expected once its rule-making panel, known as IFAB, decided last July to approve goal-line technology at competitive matches after two systems passed extensive tests.

The camera-based Hawk-Eye system and GoalRef, which uses magnetic sensors, were used at the Club World Cup in Japan in December.

A wild week begins at Match Play



**"State
of the
Game"**

Tiger Woods chips onto the second green during a practice round for the Match Play Championship golf tournament, Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2013, in Marana, Ariz.

Associated Press

NBA to resume, with Lakers down and Heat on top



East Team's LeBron James of the Miami Heat is defended by West Team's Kobe Bryant of the Los Angeles Lakers during the first half of the NBA All-Star basketball game Sunday, Feb. 17, 2013, in Houston.

BRIAN MAHONEY
AP Basketball Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — Kobe Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers turned their attention from bad basketball and trade talk to more somber matters on Monday.

The death of Jerry Buss, their longtime owner, was a blow for a franchise that was so often chasing an

NBA championship under his leadership. With Magic Johnson and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Bryant and Shaquille O'Neal, and finally Bryant and Pau Gasol, the Lakers won 10 titles since Buss became the owner in 1979.

The Bryant-Gasol-Dwight Howard-Steve Nash combination hasn't been working nearly as well.

The Lakers' record is 25-29, good for only 10th place in the Western Conference, miles behind the Los Angeles Clippers in their division and their own building, and out of the playoff race. Gasol and Nash have been hurt and Howard has been unhappy, leading to speculation he could be dealt before Thursday's trade deadline even though the

Associated Press

Lakers have said otherwise. Yet Bryant spoke confidently of a turnaround after the weekend's All-Star game, just hours before Buss' death at 80.

"I think we've been playing pretty well coming into the break," Bryant said. "We laid a couple of eggs there against the Celtics and the Clippers, but all in all we've been playing pretty well, much better than we have been. We just have to continue to improve and we'll do much better in the second half."

It starts on Tuesday, with the Lakers looking to get back on track, the Miami Heat in command in the East and LeBron James in command of everyone.

Bryant blocked James' shots twice in the final minutes of the West's 143-138 victory over the East on Sunday in the All-Star game. It was a rare failure for James, who has been sensational all season and whose Heat have hit their stride. Miami ran off seven straight victories going into the break and started to build a comfortable lead in the conference.

"We just want to play our game," James said. "Not waste an opportunity when we get on the floor. Play as a team and if we do that, we'll be fine."

The Heat are only 13-11 on the road, and All-Star forward Chris Bosh said Miami was only a 7 on a scale of 1 to 10, believing the Heat still have to put together a string of road victories to prove they are really in championship form.

"Just the fact that we had room to improve, we can play better on the road and we're still first in the East, that means a lot to us and that means we can get a lot better," Bosh said. New York is the closest challenger in the standings, while Indiana and Chicago have already beaten Miami this season and could become stronger with Danny Granger soon returning to the Pacers and perhaps Derrick Rose coming back to the Bulls at some point. San Antonio, with the league's best record, Oklahoma City and the Clippers are the teams in best position to face the Heat if they reach their third straight fi-

nals.

Chris Paul will be a free agent in July, yet the Clippers don't believe he will leave. They have built a team that's been as good as any when healthy, a deep group led by Paul, the MVP of the All-Star game.

"We're like brothers," Paul said. "I love our team and what we're doing and we're going to keep moving forward."

So, says Bryant, will the Lakers. An NBA Finals duel like the one he had with James at the All-Star game seems out of reach this season. Yet the way Bryant defended shows he's ready for the challenge.

"My switch never went off. It was on all weekend," he said. "It was good to see the guys but at the same time there was an undercurrent that went on during the first half of the season that I won't let go. Come Wednesday, we have to be ready to go." □

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Kvitova, Wozniacki win openers at Dubai

MICHAEL CASEY
AP Sports Writer

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Former Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova got out of the first round of the Dubai Championships for the first time in three visits by easily handling Daniela Hantuchova 6-2, 6-1 on Tuesday.

Kvitova, seeded sixth, broke the Slovak qualifier five times to set up a second-round match with former No. 1 Ana Ivanovic. Another former No. 1, Caroline Wozniacki, had little trouble against 18th-ranked Lucie Safarova, beating her 6-2, 6-2.

Wozniacki, the 2011 Dubai champion, was on course to meet new No. 1 Serena Williams in the quarterfinals.

The Dane, who has returned to the top 10 this year, said she feels her passion for the game has returned.

"For me, I'm just really enjoying the tennis and happy to be out there," Wozniacki said. "I think at one point it was just a job and going and playing, but I feel like I've gotten that hunger back and that enjoyment of the game."

Former U.S. Open Champion Samantha Stosur also eased into the second round, brushing aside 19th-ranked Ekaterina Makarova 6-3, 6-1.

Stosur ran off six games to close out the first set

and take a 2-0 lead in the second. She saved three break points to make it 3-1 and a fourth to make it 5-1. It was a sloppy match with the two players combining for 59 unforced errors and only 15 winners, though Stosur converted five of nine break points and won nine of 11 net points.

Williams, who received a first-round bye, became the highest seed at No. 2 when Victoria Azarenka withdrew because of a right foot injury she said she had been carrying for a week, while defending her Doha title and beating Williams in the final at the weekend.

"I tried (to play), but my body says no. I cannot force (it)," Azarenka said. "I cannot put myself in a position to hurt myself. That would just be stupid."

She intended to travel to the United States to prepare for the big Indian Wells event next month.

Meanwhile, Williams had her eye on ending her Dubai title drought on her fourth visit. Her big sister Venus has won the tournament twice, but Serena's three previous visits didn't end so well. On her debut in 2005, she had to retire in the semifinals. In 2008, she withdrew before the tournament because of the flu, and in 2009 she fell to Venus in the semis.

This time around, Williams said she was healthy —

she had a flu bug last week — and upbeat even after losing the final in Doha on Sunday.

"I feel so much better this week," Williams said. "I feel like a completely different athlete, a completely different person."

Having become the oldest No. 1 in the WTA's rankings history on Monday, Williams said she was proud to have regained the ranking after a tumultuous few years, and was moving on in search of a 48th career title and more Grand Slam success.

"I feel like I'm at a place where I reached that goal of getting back to the top," she said. "If I stay that would be great and if not then I've done it."



Petra Kvitova from the Czech Republic serves the ball to Slovakia's Daniela Hantuchova during the second day of the Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2013.

Associated Press

She's set to meet Marion Bartoli in the second round. Williams showed in 2012 that she is back to her best,

winning Olympic gold, Wimbledon, the U.S. Open and the season-ending WTA Championships. □



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Tiger gets round with Obama, awaits Match Play

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

MARANA, Arizona (AP)

— Tiger Woods delivered a "State of the Game" on President Barack Obama's golfing prowess and the news wasn't all bad.

"If he ever spent — after these four years — spent more time playing the game of golf, I'm sure he could get to where he's a pretty good stick," Woods said Wednesday.

Woods comes into the Match Play Championship on somewhat of a winning streak. While he revealed very few details about his Sunday round with Obama at The Floridian, he at least made sure everyone knew that they won.

The competition picks up at Dove Mountain, where the first World Golf Championship of the year starts Wednesday in what might be frigid weather.

Instead of having President Obama as his partner against Houston Astros owner Jim Crane and outgoing U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk, the second-seeded Woods opens this fickle tournament against Charles Howell III in a match that takes both of them back to their youth.

The last time they faced each other in this format, Woods beat Howell in the quarterfinals of the 1996 U.S. Amateur.

Woods is the only three-time winner of the Match Play Championship, though he hasn't advanced out of the second round since he last won this event in 2008. The names in the 64-man field have changed over the years. The strategy has not.

"The whole idea is just to beat one guy at a time," Woods said. "That's the thing. There are times where I've played well in matches and I've lost, and other times where I've played poorly and advanced."

"It's pot luck in these 18-hole sprints like this. As I said, it's imperative to get off to a quick start and get up on your opponent ear-



Rory McIlroy, of Northern Ireland, prepares to tee off the 10th hole during a practice round for the Match Play Golf Championship tournament, Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2013, in Marana, Ariz.

Associated Press

ly. It's just so hard to come back 18-hole matches, and hopefully, I can do that conceivably for all six."

Rory McIlroy is the No. 1 seed and will play Shane Lowry, a longtime friend and former partner on the Irish team that won the European Team Championships in 2007. In a similar match, former U.S. Open champion Graeme McDowell (Northern Ireland) plays three-time major champion Padraig Harrington (Ireland).

The toughest challenge might be the weather, with a front expected to move across the high desert overnight and bringing temperatures so low that light snow is possible. At best, it figures to be frigid for the morning matches as the sun is beginning to climb over The Ritz-Carlton Club at Dove Mountain.

"No one likes to play in adverse weather," said Ian Poulter, playing for first time since Hawaii, when the tournament took four days to start because of 40 mph wind.

Woods said he would be used to the wind and cold because that's what he dealt with in Florida with the president.

It was the second time Woods has played with a sitting U.S. president — he once played with former President Bill Clinton at The

Alotian Club in Arkansas.

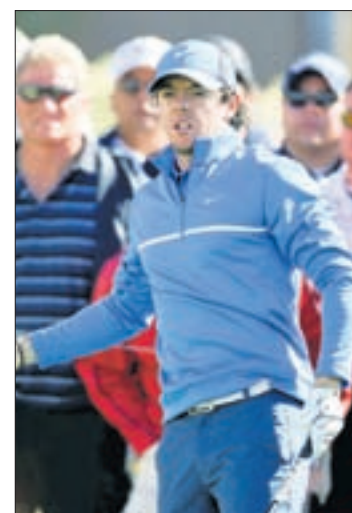
"Playing with Mr. President was pretty cool," he said. "He's just a wonderful person to be around."

Woods doesn't use "Mr." with hardly anyone. In fact, he has a nickname for most people in golf. He'll shorten the surname ("Poults" for Poulter, "Stricks" for Steve Stricker) or simply add a "y" to their name ("Rosey" for Justin Rose). And what name did he use for the leader of the free world? "Partner," Woods said with a smile.

He sounded surprised to learn that Obama played left-handed, and when asked to describe the president's best shot, Woods said that "he hit a few."

"He's a pretty good athlete, and we all know he played a lot of hoops," Woods said. "He's a lefty, but to see him out there hitting shots ... he hit it well, and we didn't play under the easiest conditions. It was blowing harder than this, and it was a little bit cooler than this. So we played under some tough conditions, and as I said, he hit the ball well. He's got amazing touch. He can certainly chip and putt." That's the key for anyone in match play.

Luke Donald has one of the best short games in golf, which explains why he won two years ago in the most dominant performance



Tiger Woods tees off the first hole during a practice round for the Match Play Championship golf tournament, Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2013, in Marana, Ariz.

Associated Press

in the 14-year history of this event. Donald is the only player to have never reached the 18th hole in any of his matches. As for the fickle nature of match play?

Donald didn't even make it out of the first round last year against Ernie Els.

Woods is coming off a four-shot win at Torrey Pines three weeks ago, after opening his 2013 season by missing the cut in Abu Dhabi.

He took an entire week off from golf, and then resumed practicing to get ready for a busy part of his schedule leading up to the Masters. This is the first of three straight tournaments

for Woods, in which he would have a mathematical chance of going back to No. 1.

All 64 players in the field are so close in ability that there is no such thing as an upset in this event, not like a Grand Slam tennis event or the NCAA basketball tournament.

Howell is the No. 63 seed, though his stock has been improving. He began the year with three straight finishes in the top 10, which enabled him to go from outside the top 100 in the world and qualify for this elite tournament.

Woods and Howell were partners at the Presidents Cup for all four matches in 2003, and Woods used to practice with him when he lived in Orlando, Fla.

"You'd see him out there on the range and the putting green just grinding away," Woods said. "His work ethic has never changed, never waned. He's out there working all the time. He's trying to get better. I admire guys who put in that kind of work. It's not easy to do, and he's implemented some swing changes over the years, but his tireless work ethic is something we all look up to."

No one has played fewer rounds this year than McIlroy and McDowell.

Wednesday will be only the third competitive round in three months for McIlroy, who missed the cut in Abu Dhabi and has not played since then. McDowell returned from his long winter break last week at Riviera and missed the cut by one shot.

"I don't feel like I'm a guy that needs to play his way into form," McIlroy said. "I think I just practice, and if I feel like I'm confident on the range and hitting it well and playing well in practice rounds, then that'll translate into shooting good scores on the course."

Scores aren't necessarily important at Dove Mountain. This week is only about having a better score than the opponent. □



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Silfverberg, Bishop help Senators top Devils in SO

The Associated Press
NEWARK, New Jersey (AP)

— Jakob Silfverberg beat Martin Brodeur to his stick side in the shootout and goalie Ben Bishop turned aside 30 shots for his first victory of the season, giving the Ottawa Senators a 2-1 victory over the New Jersey Devils on Monday. Silfverberg, who assisted on the Senators' regulation goal, skated in on Brodeur in the shootout and fired a right-handed wrist shot that caught the NHL's all-time wins leader by surprise. Bishop stopped former Senator Bobby Butler on the Devils' third shootout attempt to give Ottawa only its third road win of the season. Ilya Kovalchuk and Patrik Elias were both stopped by Bishop in the shootout. Stephen Gionta scored his second goal of the season in the opening minutes of

the game, but the Devils were silenced the rest of the way by Bishop. Brodeur had 29 saves for New Jersey. Daniel Alfredsson scored for Ottawa in the third period, tying the game at 1 with 11:48 remaining on his 420th career goal. DUCKS 3, BLUE JACKETS 2 ANAHEIM, California (AP) — Peter Holland and Ryan Getzlaf scored 21 seconds apart in the first period, sending Anaheim on the way to its fifth consecutive victory. The Pacific Division-leading Ducks' winning streak is currently the longest in the NHL and they've also won their last five home games. They were coming off a 5-1-0 road trip, the best win percentage for a trip of five or more games in franchise history. Corey Perry added a goal in the third and Jonas Hiller

made 25 saves for his first win since Feb. 2 against Los Angeles. Vinny Prospal and Derick Brassard scored for Columbus. MAPLE LEAFS 3, PANTHERS 0 SUNRISE, Florida (AP) — Ben Scrivens notched his second consecutive shutout, and Clarke MacArthur and Nazem Kadri each had a goal and an assist to lead Toronto to a win over Florida. Scrivens, who got his first shutout last Saturday in a 3-0 victory over Ottawa, stopped 37 shots. Phil Kessel also scored for the Maple Leafs, who won for the sixth time in seven games. Toronto is off to its best road start since opening 7-2-0 away from home during the 1940-41 season. The Leafs beat the Panthers for the first time in seven games dating to a



Ottawa Senators' Jakob Silfverberg (33) celebrates with goaltender Ben Bishop after the Senators defeated the New Jersey Devils, 2-1, in an NHL hockey game Monday, Feb. 18, 2013, in Newark, N.J.

Associated Press

4-3 shootout win on Feb. 1, 2011. Jose Theodore made 30 saves for Florida, which lost its fifth straight and sixth in the past seven at home. FLYERS 7, ISLANDERS 0 UNIONDALE, New York (AP) — The line of Claude Gir-

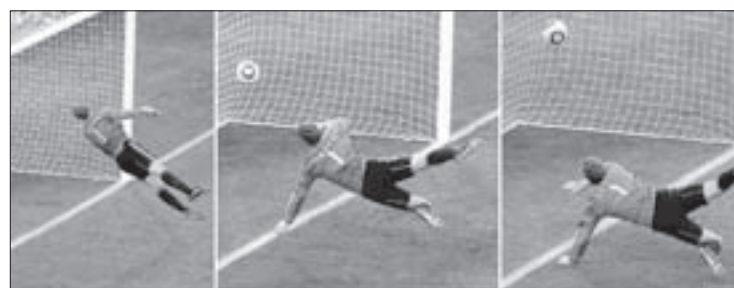
oux, Matt Read and Jakub Voracek combined for three goals and 10 points, helping Philadelphia break a slump with a victory over New York. Giroux scored two goals and added an assist, Read had a goal and two assists and Voracek had four assists. Ilya Bryzgalov made 19 saves for his first shutout of the season and 30th in the NHL. Zac Rinaldo scored his first goal of the season, Brayden Schenn also had a goal and Danny Briere closed the scoring with a pair in the third period as the Flyers moved to 2-3 on a six-game trip. Evgeni Nabokov played much better than his statistics showed and finished with 18 saves for the Islanders, who trailed 1-0 after the first period. CANADIENS 3, HURRICANES 0 MONTREAL (AP) — Tomas Plekanec and Max Pacioretty scored 18 seconds apart in the third period to seal Montreal's fourth straight win with a victory over Carolina. □

Goal-line

Continued from Page 17

Those two systems were expected to compete for World Cup duty, though two competitors are making late entries in the contest. FIFA said two German systems have completed tests and could soon be approved for use. The companies are not being formally identified until licensing is approved. One system has passed tests devised for FIFA by a Zurich-based technical institute, and results for the second are expected this month, FIFA said. Hawk-Eye is already used in tennis and cricket. The English company was bought by Sony Corp., a

World Cup sponsor, during the testing process. GoalRef uses magnetic sensors in the goalposts to track an "intelligent" ball, made by Danish company Select. Both systems relay information within one second to the referee's wristwatch. Both passed all pre-game tests in Japan but were not called upon to determine a goal. Before the 2010 World Cup, Blatter had long opposed taking the human element of decision-making from referees. He changed his stance after seeing match officials miss Lampard's shot bounce off the crossbar and land fully over the goal line in Bloemfontein. England would have leveled at 2-2 before halftime but lost 4-1 in the second round.



In this June 27, 2010 file photo made from a combination of six photos, Germany's goalkeeper Manuel Neuer looks at a ball that hit the bar to bounce over the line during the World Cup round of 16 soccer match between Germany and England at Free State Stadium in Bloemfontein, South Africa.

Associated Press

Blatter said two days later that FIFA should reopen the debate, although video replay remains off limits. For the Premier League, discussions are underway with the technology makers before a decision is made on which system to adopt. As well as the systems being bought by

the 20 clubs, the Premier League then will have to pay a licensing fee to FIFA to use its approved technology. "We are progressing in discussions with technology companies," Premier League spokesman Dan Johnson told The Associated Press. □

Protein Power

By: Dr. Carlos Viana

Protein makes up 75% of your body. The building blocks of protein are amino acids. The body can make 10 of the 20 amino acids it needs, but the other 10, which are known as "Essential Amino Acids" must come from eating foods that are rich in protein every day. Many people, even those who tell me they are eating high protein foods like, lean meats, eggs, nuts, seeds and whole grains may be protein deficient. Eating protein daily is important. However, many people eat the same foods over and over leading to missing nutrients in the body. Did you know that the color of a bean indicates the amino acids it contains? To get all the amino acids from beans you need to eat all the colors. Be sure to include a variety of healthy food preferably based on the metabolic or blood type diet every day to ensure intake of all essential vitamins, minerals and amino acids. Because each of us is different, no one diet is right for everyone, be sure to choose your protein using a metabolic or blood type diet. For example, people with blood type O and B can enjoy lean meat, chicken or fish. Look for "free range", "hormone free" or "wild caught" instead of conventional or "Big Agra-farmed" products to avoid unwanted additives. Those with blood type A and AB lack enough stomach acid to digest red meat, so, turkey, fish, beans, nuts, and seeds are easier forms of protein to digest. A very few people

can handle dairy products. If you choose this form of protein, look for organic whenever possible. Unfortunately, even with a wide variety of protein chosen from your blood type food list, if you are not digesting your food completely, it can hurt you rather than help you. Older people are especially vulnerable to digestion problems. Vegetarians, Vegans, people who eat a limited diet or have an illness, even poverty can contribute to protein deficiency. Protein deficiency can lead to arthritis, muscle deterioration, heart problems, depression and mood swings, a weakened immune system and gallstones. We start the digestive process in our stomach with enzymes and stomach acids. People with too little acid can take Beta Pepsin or Betain Hydro Chloride (HCL), available in health food stores with meals to help the stomach. After the stomach, our food travels to the small intestine. Bile from our liver digests meat and fats in your small intestines. Many people, especially women have their gallbladders removed because of gallstones. Gallstones develop because the liver is not producing valuable bile. Poor bile thickens into stones. Everyone who has lost their gallbladder or has had gastric by-pass surgery to lose weight has digestion problems. To improve the quality of your bile, take Lecithin and the amino acids Taurine and Glucine between meals. Not digesting proteins efficiently to break down into

amino acids, your body will cannibalize or break down your muscles to get the amino acids needed for the many daily processes that keep you alive. This causes muscle weakness and fatigue, edema or swelling of the arms and legs, dull, brittle or loss of hair, ridges or white lines on finger and toe nails, skin rashes or that easily burns in the sun. Amino acids are crucial in wound healing. When your body heals itself, it needs to repair or produce new tissue. These tissues use amino acids and a lack of protein digestion can lead to a slower recovery. Other symptoms of amino acid deficiency include: headaches, fainting and general weakness.

Sudden severe weight loss is a symptom of cancer, but also a protein deficiency. Cancer tumors use up your blood sugar to grow, forcing your body to burn your muscles for energy. In fact, most cancer patients do not die from their cancer; they die from muscle loss. Finally, their most important muscle, their heart gives up. Not all of the symptoms of protein deficiency are physical; some are emotional or mental and include: severe depression, anxiety, low of energy, and lack of motivation. Difficulty in sleeping can be caused by a serotonin deficiency, which is caused by a lack of certain amino acids. Digestive problems or a diet with insufficient in the right proteins could lead to difficulty in sleeping. Many of us know about Tryptophan, found in turkey, which is good for all



blood types as a sure way to make us sleepy. Amino Acid supplements that help include 5HTP taken on an empty stomach. If you are pregnant or take sleeping medication, check with a clinical nutritionist for safe use.

To check for digestion problems a basic blood test and personal exam can give us answers. For protein deficiency, besides a comprehensive blood test, my protocol uses a specialized Full Amino Acid panel to check an individual's status. Amino acid analysis provides fundamental information about not only dietary protein and all the amino acids, but more in depth digestive disorders, overall nutrition, including vitamin and mineral deficiencies; particularly folic acid, B- complex metabolism. With this and other information, we can then make an individual nutrition and treatment plan for each person, which includes food, special order supplements, and lifestyle. Get The Point! If you are experiencing some of these symptoms, make an appointment for us to test if protein deficiency due to digestion problems is a

problem. Understanding how your body is handling its protein, or lack of is important to physical and emotional health. Let us teach you how to use the power of protein to repair and maintain your precious body and mind for a long, healthy life.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in China; a US Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), an Addiction Professional (C.Ad.), Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist specializing in Age Management, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA HEALING CENTER, Kibaima 7, St Cruz TEL: 585-1270 Web Site: www.vianaheal.com Dr. Viana's NEW BOOK: Prescriptions from Paradise, Introduction to Biocompatible Medicine – Available at local Bookstores, Hotel Gift shops and Boticas. Signed copies at Viana Healing Center, EBook on www.amazon.com, check for Events at: [facebook.com/vianahealingcenter](https://www.facebook.com/vianahealingcenter).

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Microsoft's Outlook takes aim at Google's Gmail

MICHAEL LIEDTKE

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)— Microsoft is so confident it has the Internet's best email service that it is about to spend at least \$30 million to send its message across the U.S.

The barrage begins Tuesday when Microsoft's twist on email, Outlook.com, escalates an assault on rival services from Google Inc., Yahoo Inc., AOL Inc. and a long list of Internet service providers.

As part of the process, all users of Microsoft's Hotmail and other email services operating under different domains such as MSN.com will be automatically converted to Outlook.com by the summer, if they don't voluntarily switch before then. All the old messages, contacts and settings in the old inboxes will be exported to Outlook.com. Users will also be able to keep their old addresses.

Email remains a key battleground, even at a time when more people are texting each other on phones. People still regularly check their inboxes, albeit increasingly on their smartphones. The recurring email habit provides Internet companies a way to keep people coming back to websites. It gives people a reason to log in during their visits so it's easier for email providers to track their activities. Frequent visits and personal identification are two of the keys to selling ads, the main way most websites make money.

That's why Microsoft, Google and Yahoo have been retooling their email services in recent months. After keeping Outlook.com in a "preview" phase since July 31, Microsoft Corp. is ready to accept all comers.

To welcome new users, Microsoft is financing what it believes to be the biggest marketing blitz in the history of email. Outlook.com will be featured in ads running on primetime TV, radio stations, websites, billboards and buses. Microsoft expects to spend somewhere between \$30 million to \$90



In this Nov. 28, 2012, file photo, Microsoft Corp. retail store employees and guests mingle at a pop-up Microsoft Store during Microsoft's annual meeting of shareholders, in Bellevue, Wash.

Associated Press

million on the Outlook campaign, which will run for at least three months.

The Outlook ads will overlap with an anti-Gmail marketing campaign that Microsoft launched earlier this month. The Gmail ads are meant to be educational while the Outlook campaign is motivational, said Dharmesh Mehta, Outlook.com's senior director.

"We are trying to push people who have gotten lazy and comfortable with an email service that may not be all that great and help show them what email can really do for them," said Mehta.

By Microsoft's own admission, Hotmail had lost the competitive edge that once made it the world's largest email service. The lack of innovation left an opening for Google to exploit when it unveiled Gmail nearly nine years ago.

Gmail is now the industry leader, although estimates

on its popularity vary.

Google says Gmail has more than 425 million account holders, including those that only visit on smartphones and other mobile device. The latest data from research firm comScore, which doesn't include mobile traffic, shows Gmail with 306 million worldwide users through December, up 21 percent from the previous year. Yahoo's email ranked second with 293 million users, a 2 percent decrease from the previous year, followed by Hotmail at 267 million users, a 16 percent decline from the previous year.

Microsoft, which is based in Redmond, Washington, is counting on Outlook.com to catapult the company back to the top of the email heap. During the preview period, Outlook attracted 60 million account holders, including about 20 million that defected from Gmail, according to

Microsoft. Comscore listed Outlook with 38 million users through December.

The new features being introduced in Outlook include: the ability to send massive files, including hundreds of photos at a time, in a single email; address books that automatically update new contact information that connections post on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn; and about 60 percent fewer ads than Hotmail.

None of these features are revolutionary. Google already has been giving its users the option to switch to a new version of Gmail that also allows for larger files to be sent in a single email.

And address books in Gmail already fetch new contact information posted on Google Plus, although

it doesn't yet mine Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. Google declined to comment on Outlook.com. The company, which is based in Mountain View, California, plans to convert all of its Gmail users to its redesigned format within the next few months.

Yahoo, which is based in Sunnyvale, California re-vamped its email service late last year in an effort to provide a more consistent experience on personal computers and mobile devices.

Outlook.com is the latest in a series of major product leases from Microsoft, which has been struggling to regain the cachet that once made it the world's most valuable technology company.

Now, both Apple Inc. and Google are worth more because they have been growing far faster than Microsoft as their products win more fans. Apple's biggest gains have come from the iPhone and iPad, while Google has been benefiting from its dominance in Internet search and its widely used Android software for mobile devices.

Microsoft has been trying to catch up with a major makeover of its Windows operating system, new smartphone software and a tablet computer called Surface.

Like Outlook.com, all those products have been backed by expensive marketing campaigns in recent months. □

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. J.M. (Jeannot) de Cuba is pleased to inform you that as per February 1, 2013 he has continued his practice under the name De Cuba Law Office N.V.



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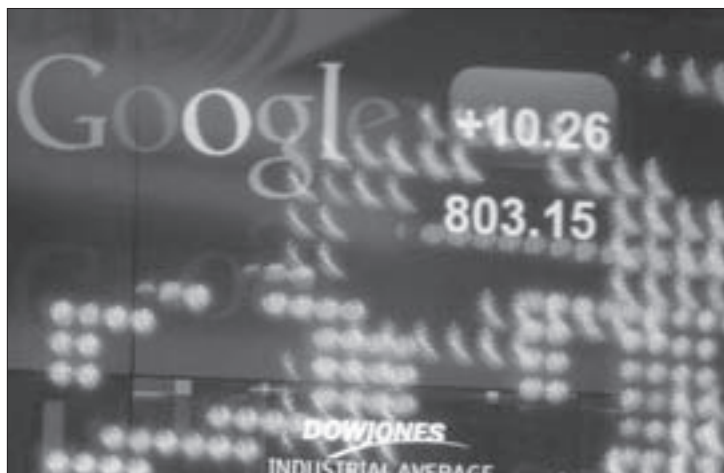
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Renewed fervor for Google lifts stock above \$800

MICHAEL LIEDTKE
Associated Press
SAN FRANCISCO (AP)

— Google's stock price topped \$800 for the first time Tuesday amid renewed confidence in the company's ability to reap higher profits from its dominance of Internet search and prominence in the growing mobile market. The milestone comes more than five years after Google's shares initially hit \$700. Not long after breaking that barrier in October 2007, the economy collapsed into the worst recession since World War II and Google's stock tumbled into a prolonged malaise that eventually led to a change in leadership. Besides enriching Google's employees and other

shareholders, the company's resurgent stock is an implicit endorsement of stock has risen by 36 percent since Page took over. By contrast, the bench-



The Google logo and numbers are displayed on a ticker behind Time Square lights reflected on NASDAQ headquarters windows, Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2013 in New York.

(AP Photo/Mary Altaffer)

co-founder Larry Page. He replaced his managerial mentor, Eric Schmidt, as CEO in April 2011. Google's

mark Standard & Poor's 500 index has climbed by 15 percent over the same stretch.

Most of Google's gains have occurred in the past seven months — a period that has overlapped with a sharp downturn in the stock price of rival Apple Inc. The iPhone maker's market value has plunged by about \$230 billion, or 35 percent, since late September.

"All that Apple money had to go somewhere," said BGC Financial analyst Colin Gillis. Standard & Poor's Capital IQ analyst Scott Kessler concurred, reasoning that many investors who have abandoned Apple are gravitating to one of its biggest rivals.

"If you are looking at Apple's peers in its space and see who seems to be really doing well right now, it makes a lot of sense to

invest in Google now," Kessler said.

Despite its diminished luster, Apple remains the most valuable U.S. company with a market value of \$432 billion. Google now ranks third with a market value of \$266 billion, with Exxon Mobil Corp. holding the spot in between at \$402 billion.

Google's stock climbed \$13.96, or 1.8 percent, to close Tuesday at \$806.85.

Analysts who follow Google still see room for some modest gains. The stock's average price target among analysts surveyed by FactSet now stands at \$834.40. Five of the 37 polled analysts are predicting Google's stock will surpass \$900 within the next year. □

Lufthansa has \$1.3B year profit, cancels dividend

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)

— German airline Lufthansa says it made €990 million (\$1.3 billion) net profit last year but canceled its dividend payment to shareholders and said it would close sites and merge office functions as it presses ahead with restructuring its business.

The net profit compares to a loss of €13 million from

2011. But the improvement came mostly from the sale of equity investments, not better earnings from its businesses.

CEO Christoph Franz said Tuesday the company needs to "perform even better."

Lufthansa said it would merge finance, purchasing and human resources activities and close its

head office in Cologne, which has a staff of 365, by the end of 2017. It will also close an office in Norderstedt where 350 people work and consider moving the headquarters of its Lufthansa CityLine division from Cologne to its operational base in Munich.

"Short decision-making channels and fewer interfaces will make Lufthansa's

passenger business leaner, faster and more flexible," said Carsten Spohr, a member of the top management board.

The company has already announced it needs to drop 3,500 office jobs and move some European routes to its low-cost airline Germanwings.

The company is trying to improve operating profits

by €1.5 billion by 2015.

It said that it would invest €9 billion from 2015 to 2015 in new planes that would be cheaper to operate. It plans to buy eight long-haul planes and 100 short-and medium-range planes. Lufthansa flies aircraft from both Airbus and Boeing. For the entire year, revenues rose 4.9 percent to €30.1 billion euros. □

Dell earnings down 31 percent in 4Q

ROUND ROCK, Texas (AP)

— Dell Inc. on Tuesday posted another quarter of declining sales and profits, the type of results that have disenchanted shareholders and prompted a buyout agreement.

Two weeks ago, Dell's founder and CEO Michael Dell and a group of investors agreed to buy the company for \$24.4 billion with a plan to turn it around. If the deal goes through, it will take the PC maker off the stock market after 25 years.

The company's two largest shareholders after Michael Dell don't think the offer is high enough, and plan to



Dell's XPS Ultrabook convertible on display at the Consumer Electronics Show, in Las Vegas. Dell Inc.'s net income fell 31 percent in the latest quarter as the company continued to be hurt by a shrinking PC market.

(AP Photo/Julie Jacobson)

vote against the deal. The company's conference call to discuss the quarterly earnings will mark Michael Dell's first public remarks since the terms of the sale were announced.

Dell's slump stems from weakening demand for PCs as more technology spending shifts toward smartphones and tablet computers.

The Round Rock, Texas company posted net income of \$530 million, or 30 cents per share, for its fiscal fourth quarter, which ended Feb. 1.

That was down from \$764 million, or 43 cents per share, in the quarter a year

ago.

Excluding acquisition- and severance-related charges, earnings were 40 cents per share, beating by 1 cent the average forecast of analysts polled by FactSet.

Revenue was \$14.3 billion, down 11 percent from a year ago. It beat analyst expectations at \$14.1 billion.

Dell's stock gained 5 cents to \$13.85 in extended trading after the financial results were released.

That's 20 cents above the buyout offer, indicating that investors believe there's some chance of an improved bid. □

Talk of more corporate deals sends stocks higher

MATTHEW CRAFT
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Talk of more deal-making sent the stock market higher Tuesday, putting the Dow Jones industrial average within close reach of its all-time high.

Reports that retailers Office Depot and OfficeMax are discussing a merger came after big corporate deals for Heinz and Dell were announced in recent weeks. Some investors are betting that more deals could be on the way as buyers pay premium prices for publicly traded companies.

The Dow rose 53.91 points, or 0.4 percent, to close at 14,035.67. All it would take now is one good day to push the average above 14,164, the record high reached in October 2007.

"It seems that investors are more comfortable with taking risk right now," said Jack Ablin, chief investment officer at BMO Private Bank in Chicago. That's despite the \$1.2 trillion in automatic federal spending cuts that are scheduled to start March 1 unless Congress and the White House find a way to avoid them. Congress returns from vacation next week.

Previous budget battles in Washington have rattled financial markets. But this time out, many investors seem unfazed by the prospect that Congress won't stop the "sequester" from



Traders work on the floor at the New York Stock Exchange in New York, Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2013. Talk of more mergers and acquisitions sent stock prices higher in trading, setting the market up to continue a seven-week rally.

(AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

kicking in. One reason is that the cuts are spread across the board for a decade, instead of all at once.

"I think investors are actually comforted by it," Ablin said. "It's not ideal. But if Congress can't do it when left to their own devices, this is the next best thing."

In other trading Tuesday, the Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 11.15 points, or 0.7 percent, to 1,530.94. The technology-heavy Nasdaq composite index gained 21.56 points, or 0.7 percent, to 3,213.59. Google crossed \$800 for the first time. The gains were widely shared, if slight.

Nine of the 10 industry groups tracked by the Standard & Poor's 500 index inched higher, led by energy companies. More than two stocks rose for every one that fell on the New York Stock Exchange. Markets were also higher in Europe following news that the German economy is picking up steam. Indexes

rose more than 1 percent in Germany and France.

Stocks of office supplies stores jumped following a report in The Wall Street Journal that OfficeMax and Office Depot were considering a deal to merge. The paper said an announcement could come as early as this week.

OfficeMax soared \$2.25 to an even \$13, a gain of 21 percent, and Office Depot shot up 43 cents to \$5.02, a gain of 9 percent. Staples also rose as investors anticipated that more mergers could be on the way.

Analysts cautioned that antitrust regulators could block mergers in the office-supply business. Staples, for instance, tried to buy Office Depot in 1997, but was stopped by the Federal Trade Commission.

Health insurers fell after the release of preliminary government data that suggests rate cuts to Medicare Advantage plans for next year will be steeper than anticipated. □

Profit up at Herbalife, subject of Street squabble

C. REXRODE
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Herbalife, the company caught in the middle of a hedge fund dogfight, says revenue and profit grew at the end of last year.

Net income was up 12

percent to \$118 million. Per share, that worked out to \$1.05, edging past the \$1.03 that analysts polled by FactSet had expected.

Sales rose 20 percent to \$1.06 billion, ahead of Wall Street's predicted \$1.05 bil-

lion.

The Los Angeles company, which sells dietary supplements, credited strong relationships with customers. It barely mentioned the fight over it by hedge fund moguls Carl Icahn, who is buying Herbalife shares, and

Bill Ackman, who is betting against them.

It did say it would be hit by one-time costs to respond to "information put into the marketplace" that it "believes to be inaccurate and misleading." □

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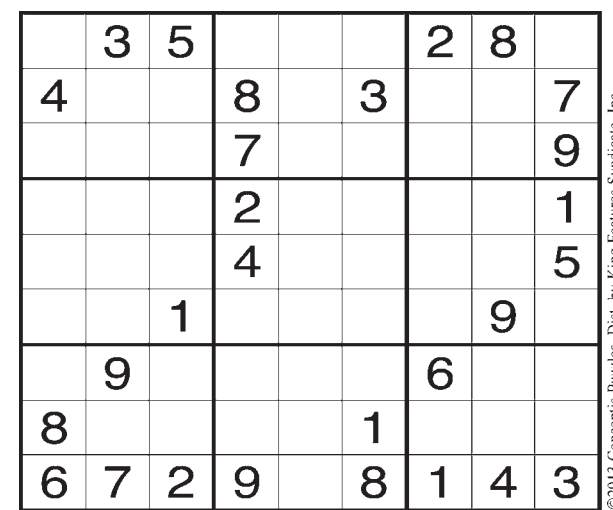
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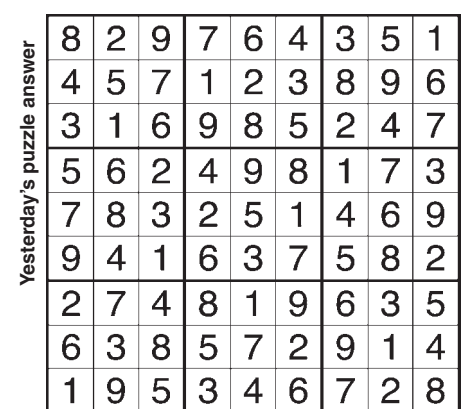
Conceptis Sudoku



Difficulty Level ★★ ★

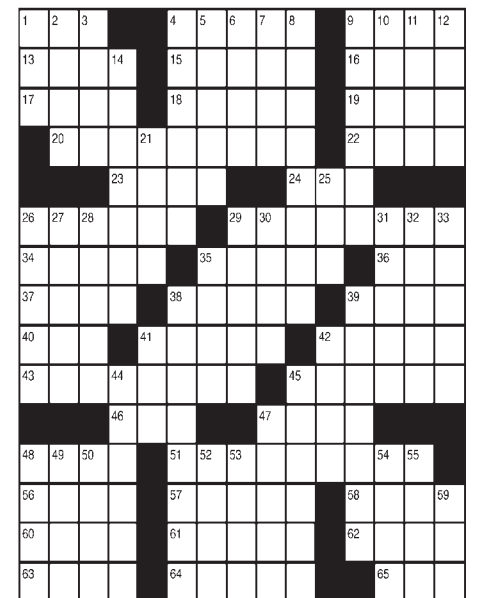
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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.



ACROSS

- 1 Deep hole
4 Fable teller
9 African nation
13 ___ a test;
 passes easily
15 Cessna or 737
16 Was in the red
17 Orderly
18 Whittles down
19 Good buy
20 Playwright
22 Notice
23 Robert or
 Elizabeth
24 In one ___ and
 out the other
26 Soap opera
29 Nation of South
 America once
 called Dutch
 Guiana
34 Influence; pull
35 Ne'er-do-well
36 Pale
37 Wander
38 Gave a pink
 slip to
39 Horse's pace
40 Spring month:
 abbr.
41 Makes coins
42 Capture
43 Voice mail
 recordings
45 List of names
46 Speedometer
 letters
47 Departed
48 Couch
51 Hairy spider
56 Stylish
57 Upper crust
58 Burglarizes
60 Cry from a sty
61 Stitch again
62 At any time
63 Foot digits
64 Prophets
65 Sullivan and
 Bedley



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

2/20/13

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved



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- DOWN**
- 1 "Peter ____"
 - 2 Frosted
 - 3 Rip
 - 4 Horrify
 - 5 Make jovous

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 41 Atlas page | 49 "The Buckeye |
| 42 Cushiony | State" |
| 44 Loud kisses | 50 Acceptable |
| 45 Extends one's | 52 Toward shelter, |
| subscription | nautically |
| 47 Procrastinator's | 53 Get up |
| word | 54 Reason to wed |
| 48 Aberdeen | 55 Still in the sack |
| resident | 59 Yrbk. section |

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Study: Hummingbirds migrating earlier in spring

BRUCE SMITH

Associated Press

CHARLESTON, South Carolina (AP) — Ruby-throated

hummingbirds are migrating to North America weeks earlier than in decades past, and research indicates that higher temperatures in their winter habitat may be the reason. Researchers say the early arrival could mean less food at nesting time for the tiny birds that feed on insect pests, help pollinate flowers and are popular with birdwatchers.

"Hummingbirds are charismatic, and they do things that fascinate us," said Ron Johnson, a scientist at Clemson University and one of the study's authors. "They fly backward, and they hover, and they will come to feeders at homes so people can easily see them."

Johnson and colleagues from Clemson; Taylor University in Upland, Indiana; and the University of Nebraska last month published an article on the migration of the hummingbirds in *The Auk*, the Journal of the American Ornithologists Union.

The birds, which weigh little more than a nickel coin, fly hundreds of miles (kilometers) over the Gulf of Mexico from their wintering grounds in Central America to arrive in North America. The research compared data on their first arrival times from 1890 to 1969 with arrival times during the past 15 years or so.

The comparison found that the birds are arriving in North America 12 to 18 days earlier than in the past.

Jason Courtier of Taylor



In this June 10, 2008 photo provided by Terry Sohl, a male Ruby-throated hummingbird feeds at a honeysuckle plant, in Brandon, S.D.
Associated Press

University said the historical data on hummingbirds is based on government surveys from about 3,000 naturalists around the country who recorded the first spring arrival time of bird species over the decades. About 6 million such records exist and are being scanned into computer databases by the North American Bird Phenology Program.

The research compared the historical documents with about 30,000 recent records on hummingbird arrivals. Scientists say the earlier arrival times could be problematic for hummingbirds, of which there are an estimated 7 million. "With any bird that migrates over long distances, it's good to show up at the nesting grounds at a good time when you can set up a territory and build your nest and when the young come along there will be a lot of food available," Johnson said.

"You want to be there ide-

ally right when the food becomes available at its peak so the young ones will have enough food."

Ecological systems work differently, Johnson said, and the hummingbirds' early arrival doesn't necessarily mean that the flowers and insects of their diet are available earlier.

Courtier said future research might focus on other species farmers need for pollination of plants.

"We're wondering what the consequences are and are hummingbirds representative of other species farmers rely on for other pollination and biological pest control," he said.

James Van Remsen, the

curator of birds at the Museum of Natural Science at Louisiana State University, said that while he had not seen the hummingbirds research, a wide body of literature shows other species of birds flying north earlier in both North America and Europe.

But he added that sometimes too much emphasis is placed on the earliest date a bird appears. It could reflect a couple of extremely early arrivals, he said.

"What really counts, biologically, is whether the peak period of migration has actually changed," he said. "That is what would most likely affect population biology." □

NASA regains space station contact after outage

SETH BORENSTEIN

AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The

International Space Station regained contact with NASA controllers in Houston after nearly three hours of accidental quiet, the space agency says.

Officials say the six crew members and station are fine and had no problem during the brief outage.

NASA spokesman Josh Byerly said something went wrong around 9:45 a.m. EST Tuesday (1445 GMT) during a computer software update on the station. The outpost abruptly lost all communication, voice and command from Houston.

Communication was restored less than three hours later, Byerly said.

"We've got our command and control back," he said. Station commander Kevin Ford was able to briefly radio Moscow while the station was flying over Russia. Normally, NASA commu-



This Thursday, May 24, 2012 image made from video provided by NASA-TV shows the International Space Station taken from the thermal imaging camera aboard the SpaceX Dragon commercial cargo craft as it approaches the station.

Associated Press

nicates with and sends commands to the station from Houston, via three communications satellites that transmit voice, video and data. Such interruptions have happened a few times in the past, the space agency said.

If there is no crisis going on, losing communication with the ground "is not a terrible thing," said former astronaut Jerry Linenger, who

was on the Russian space station Mir during a dangerous fire in 1997. "You feel pretty confident up there that you can handle it. You're flying the spacecraft."

Not only should this boost the confidence of the station crew, it's good training for any eventual mission to Mars because there will be times when communications is down or difficult during the much farther voyage, Linenger said.

In the past few weeks the space station had been purposely simulating communications delays and downtimes to see how activity could work for a future Mars mission, Byerly said. This was not part of those tests, but may prove useful, he said. □

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Quincy Jones launches music education application

JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr.
Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Quincy Jones says he has co-created a new music education application Tuesday called Playground Sessions, which teaches users how to play the piano. The 79-year-old composer-producer said the app will help children and adults learn how to read music and understand the mechanics of piano playing. There's "such a need for this," Jones said in an interview last week. "The concept is brand-new. I have been praying for this for a long time. It has a learning concept similar to Rosetta Stone. I'm blown away by this." Playground Sessions is a musical app with real-time feedback and video tutorials from pianist David Sides. It features about 70 popular songs by Beyonce and Justin Bieber, and well-known tunes like Katy Perry's "Firework" and Frank

Sinatra's "New York, New York." Jones, who produced Michael Jackson's "Thriller" and other successful albums, hopes Playground Sessions will have an impact on music education programs in schools around the world. One of first schools that will use the app is Jones' alma mater, Garfield High School in Seattle. "Our kids in this country know less than any other country," Jones said of music education in the United States. "We need something like Playground Sessions to push us forward." Chris Vance, who co-created the app and founded Playground Sessions, got together with Jones more than a year ago after working alone on the application for three years. He said Jones immediately saw a vision for the product and wanted to make learning music a fun experience. Vance also said Sides was an easy



This Oct. 20, 2012 file photo shows music producer Quincy Jones arrives at The Carousel of Hope at The Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills. Associated Press

pick when he was selecting a pianist for the project. Jones calls Sides a very talented piano player who has an engaging personal-

ity. "I wish I had someone like him teaching me how to play the piano," Jones said of Sides, known for his popular piano covers

on YouTube, including his rendition of OneRepublic's "Apologize," which has garnered more than 10 million views. □

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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi, a true native Aruban started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced hand rolled cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi always had a interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crops. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba, he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The whole process took him 10 years to perfect. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the moulding and process of making a

perfect cigar which takes a long time. Their handmade cigar box is specially designed with their "Aruhiba" logo. Petrocchi considers Aruhiba as a promotion for Aruba through its fine cigars. The company sells Aruhiba to the international markets as well. Visit their retail store located in front of the Historic Dutch Windmill in front of the Westin Resort, with any purchase of \$20 and up you receive a free "Aruhiba" cigar or ask for their gift box of 5 cigars get 1 FREE for only \$37. They open from Monday to Saturday from 9 am till 6:30 pm and on Sundays from 9 am to 1 pm. Aruhiba cigars are now available at the gift stores in your resort and at well-known cigar stores. For their complete selection and attractive by the box prices visit their retail store. Tours are also available at their Tobacco farm where their cigars are grown and rolled.



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McCready death renews questions for TV rehab show

CHRIS TALBOTT
AP Music Writer

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP)

— The apparent suicide of country singer Mindy McCready makes her the fifth troubled cast member of the “Celebrity Rehab” reality TV series to die since appearing on the show, stoking rumors of a curse and a debate about the show’s helpfulness.

Criticism of TV host Dr. Drew Pinsky spread on the Internet almost as quickly as news of McCready’s death.

While many noted that Drew took on hard cases, others rendered stark judgment.

Singer Richard Marx on Twitter compared Pinsky to Dr. Jack Kevorkian, the so-called suicide doctor who said he assisted in the deaths of about 130 gravely ill people: “Same results.” Marx backed off later Monday, saying the crack went too far.

But he restated his thoughts in a way that summed up much of the reaction in the first 24 hours since the 37-year-old McCready’s death Sunday afternoon in Arkansas.

“It is, however, my opinion that what Dr. D does is exploitation and his TV track record is not good,” Marx wrote.

VH1’s “Celebrity Rehab with Dr. Drew” is not currently on the air. Pinsky switched his focus to non-celebrities in Season 6 last fall and changed the title to “Re-



This Aug. 4, 2011 file photo shows Dr. Drew Pinsky, host of the CW television series “Dr. Drew’s Lifechangers,” during a panel discussion on the show at the CW Showtime summer press tour in Beverly Hills, Calif.

hab.” The show spawned two spinoffs, “Sober House” and “Sex Rehab.”

Season 3, shot in 2009, featured McCready, former NBA star Dennis Rodman, actors Tom Sizemore and Mackenzie Phillips, former Hollywood madam Heidi Fleiss and a handful of lesser known celebrity types.

“My heart is breaking. Rest in peace dear friend,” Phillips said Monday on Twitter. McCready was a sympathetic character on the show and appeared to be far less damaged than her fellow cast members, some of whom experienced fairly graphic symptoms of opi-

ate withdrawal in front of the cameras. McCready suffered a seizure while on the show, further endearing her to Pinsky and the others.

“But Dr. Drew said something to me that just mowed me over literally, just floored me,” she said. “He said, ‘You’ve been being treated for the symptoms of what’s wrong with you, not the problem.

And you’re going to have to put your family aside for a moment, put their feelings aside for a moment and worry about you because if you don’t get better, it doesn’t matter what

your family thinks. You’re not going to be there anymore.’”

Pinsky diagnosed her with “love addiction” during the series’ run and called her an “angel” in the finale. In an interview with The Associated Press several months later, he said McCready had a good shot at recovery if she remained in treatment.

Three years later, she’s dead of an apparent self-inflicted gunshot to the head. McCready walked away from treatment several days ago after her father asked a judge to intervene. Her body was found

on the front porch of a home she shared with longtime boyfriend David Wilson, who appears to have killed himself in the same spot last month. Wilson was the father of McCready’s youngest son.

Pinsky wasn’t immediately available for comment, his publicist said, but he issued a statement Sunday night that noted he’d spoken with McCready recently.

“She is a lovely woman who will be missed by many,” the statement said. “Although I have not treated her for a few years, I had reached out to her recently upon hearing about the apparent suicide of her boyfriend and father of her younger (child).

She was devastated. Although she was fearful of stigma and ridicule she agreed with me that she needed to make her health and safety a priority. Unfortunately it seems that Mindy did not sustain her treatment.”

A lack of continued treatment also appears to have led to the deaths of McCready’s Season 3 castmates Mike Starr, bassist for Alice in Chains, and Joey Kovar, a “Real World” participant. Los Angeles riots spark Rodney King and actor Jeff Conaway also have passed away.

Starr and Kovar overdosed and King was found dead in his pool with alcohol and marijuana in his system. □

DiCaprio calls for ivory trade ban in Thailand

BANGKOK (AP) — Leonardo DiCaprio wants Thailand to ban all ivory trade in the country as part of a global campaign to tackle illegal wildlife crimes.

World Wildlife Fund and the actor were encouraging people to sign a petition urging Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra to ban the trade and save African and Asian elephants from illegal poaching.

Although Thai law prohibits sales of African tusks in the kingdom, ivory from domesticated elephants can be traded legally.

Activists say the loophole encourages massive quantities of African ivory to be il-

legally imported to Thailand each year.

WWF quoted DiCaprio’s appeal as warning that elephants and other species are being threatened by the demand for their parts. “Whole populations are at risk of being wiped out if we don’t take immediate action to shut down this illicit trade,” it quoted him as saying.

The 38-year-old DiCaprio has long been an environmental activist and is on the WWF board. His most recent film was “Django Unchained” and he stars in the upcoming Baz Luhrmann remake of “The Great Gatsby.” □



This Dec. 11, 2012 file photo released by Starpix shows actor Leonardo DiCaprio at a special screening of “Django Unchained,” at The Ziegfeld Theatre in New York.

Associated Press

Senators Overboard!



GAIL COLLINS
© 2013 New York Times

We seem to be short one secretary of defense.

Well, there's Leon Panetta, who has already had his farewell ceremony, given his farewell briefing and his farewell address, then flown home to California. But the Pentagon probably still has his cell number in case a war breaks out.

And there's Chuck Hagel, nominated yet totally-still-not-confirmed by the U.S. Senate. A Senate that is beginning to resemble a bad Carnival cruise. They're dead in the water, nothing's working, and the chief engineer is Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina.

People, what do you think happened with Lindsey Graham? Have you noticed that lately he seems to be on television more often than the Geico gecko? How does he manage to get himself interviewed so much? Do you think he lives in a tent outside one of the studios? Graham doesn't hold any Senate position higher than ranking member of the Armed Services subcommittee on personnel. Yet there he is, on the air all the time, denouncing something.

And what do you think has happened to John McCain? Actually, we've had that conversation a number of times before.

When it comes to the Hagel nomination, McCain is supposed to be the Republican point man. If we were on a Carnival cruise, he would be the captain. A captain who got on the PA and announced that the ship was going to Mexico. No, Alabama! No, in a circle! Or maybe we'll just stay dead in the water until a week from Tuesday and see what happens. Both McCain and Graham have changed their tune repeatedly over what the critical, central problem is about making Chuck Hagel the secretary of defense. The goal posts have not just been moved; they've been put on a tractor-trailer and driven down every highway exit in the continental United States. The complaints about Hagel that have come up so far range from the perfectly reasonable (seems to have trouble communicating), to the perfectly lunatic. During debate in the Senate Armed Services Committee, James Inhofe of Oklahoma, the ranking Republican, suggested that Hagel had been "endorsed" by "terrorist-type countries." This presumably had to do with a spokesman for the Iranian For-

eign Ministry saying he hoped Hagel's nomination would improve relations between the two countries.

Let us all stop for a minute here and say a prayer that someday a spokesman for the International League of Puppy Murderers appears out of nowhere to announce that he thinks James Inhofe would make a great animal warden.

McCain and Graham have been particularly obsessed with the attack on the U.S. mission in Benghazi, Libya – from the "talking points" given to Susan Rice, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, to the president's phone calls in the wake of the tragedy. "I'm not going to stop until we get to the bottom of it," Graham said on – yes! – a Sunday morning talk show.

The only problem is that Hagel wasn't in government when the attack occurred. He had nothing to do with it. Watching the Republicans fight this nomination over Benghazi is sort of like watching the crew of a disabled cruise ship racing around yelling about a bridge being out on the Amtrak route to Montreal.

On Thursday, the Republicans declined to permit an up-or-down vote on the Hagel nomination, something that has never before happened with a prospective secretary of defense.

Sen. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee argued that it wasn't such a big deal, because there were plenty of precedents for holding up even good ideas for no reason whatsoever. He pointed to the dreadful time 20 years ago when a single senator from Ohio caused an 87-day delay on "a fairly noncontroversial nominee" for secretary of education. Who happened to be Lamar Alexander of Tennessee.

The Republicans said what they were doing didn't count as a filibuster since they just wanted to bring all progress to a screeching halt temporarily, while the senators took more time to study the issues. This translates into letting the tea party crazies have another week to look for a smoking gun – in the form, perhaps, of a hitherto-undiscovered video of Chuck Hagel on a camel, leading a tribe of Bedouins across the desert in an attack on Aqaba.

"After the break, we can have a cloture vote, and I feel pretty comfortable I'd vote to move on – unless there's some bombshell," said Graham.

Let's take a vote ourselves. Would you rather have the Senate: A) Spend one week on vacation studying and then the last week of the month debating Chuck Hagel, or

B) Stay right where they are and figure out what to do about those enormous, economy-busting spending cuts that are scheduled to kick in March 1.

OK, I see a whole lot of hands for staying and fixing the spending cuts. None of you are ever going to get to be a U.S. senator. □



When Families Fail



DAVID BROOKS
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Today millions of American children grow up in homes where they don't learn the skills they need to succeed in life. Their vocabularies are tiny. They can't regulate their emotions. When they get to kindergarten they've never been read a book, so they don't know the difference between the front cover and the back cover.

But, starting a few decades ago, we learned that preschool intervention programs could help. The efforts were small and expensive, but early childhood programs like the Perry and Abecedarian projects made big differences in kids' lives. The success of these programs set off a lot of rhapsodic writing, including by me, about the importance of early childhood education. If government could step in and provide quality preschool, then we could reduce poverty and increase social mobility.

But this problem, like most social problems, is hard. The big federal early childhood program, Head Start, has been chugging along since 1965, and the outcomes are dismal. Russ Whitehurst of the Brookings Institution summarizes the findings of the most rigorous research: "There is no measurable advantage to children in elementary school of having

participated in Head Start. Further, children attending Head Start remain far behind academically once they are in elementary school. Head Start does not improve the school readiness of children from low-income families."

Fortunately, that is not the end of the story. Over the past several years, there's been a flurry of activity, as states and private groups put together better early childhood programs. In these programs, the teachers are better trained. There are more rigorous performance standards. The curriculum is better matched to the one the children will find when they enter kindergarten.

These state programs, in places like Oklahoma, Georgia and New Jersey, have not been studied as rigorously as Head Start. There are huge quality differences between different facilities in the same state or the same town. The best experts avoid sweeping conclusions. Nonetheless, there's a lot of evidence to suggest that these state programs can make at least an incremental difference in preparing children for school and in getting parents to be more engaged in their kids' education.

These programs do not perform miracles, but incremental improvements add up year by year and produce significantly better lives.

Enter President Barack Obama. This week he announced the most ambitious early childhood education expansion in decades. On Thursday morning, early education advocates were sending each other ecstatic emails. They were stunned by the scope of what Obama is proposing.

But, on this subject, it's best to be hardheaded. So I spent Wednesday and Thursday talking with experts and administration officials, trying to be skeptical. Does the president's plan merely expand the failing federal effort or does

it focus on quality and reform? Is the president trying to organize a bloated centralized program or is he trying to be a catalyst for local experimentation?

So far the news is very good. Obama is trying to significantly increase the number of kids with access to early education. The White House will come up with a dedicated revenue stream that will fund early education projects without adding to the deficit. These federal dollars will be used to match state spending, giving states, many of whom want to move aggressively, further incentive to expand and create programs.

But Washington's main role will be to measure outcomes, not determine the way states design their operations. Washington will insist that states establish good assessment tools. They will insist that pre-K efforts align with the K-12 system. But beyond that, states will have a lot of latitude.

Should early education centers be integrated with K-12 school buildings or not? Should the early childhood teachers be unionized or certified? Obama officials say they want to leave those sorts of questions up to state experimentation. "I'm just about building quality," Education Secretary Arne Duncan told me. The goal is to make the federal oversight as simple as possible.

That's crucial. There's still a lot we don't know about how to educate children that young. The essential thing is to build systems that can measure progress, learn and adapt to local circumstances. Over time, many children will migrate from Head Start into state programs.

This is rude to say, but here's what this is about: Millions of parents don't have the means, the skill or, in some cases, the interest in building their children's future. Early childhood education is about building structures so both parents and children learn practical life skills. □

New, Now, Louis Vuitton's Smallest, Cutest NOÉ

Everybody knows Noé. In strictly chronological terms, it is the second oldest Louis Vuitton iconic daily bag, its birth date of 1932 placing it at the start of an exceptional decade that saw the creation of the Speedy, the Alma and the Keepall. On Aruba, and at Louis Vuitton boutiques around the world, these classics are still favorites and always on display in one or the other version. Here, at the Louis Vuitton boutique at Renaissance Mall, the Noé is also one of the most asked-for bags and is featured in different collections, alongside beautiful pieces from the much commented Spring/Summer 2013 collection. In spirit, however, Noé is as young as any bag around, still tinged with the care-free air of those newly liberated women who wore short skirts, shorter hair and carried it – just so – swinging from their shoulder. The story of its creation?



Well, that's the stuff of legend. Looking for a stylish way to transport his valuable vintages, a champagne producer placed a special order with Gaston-Louis Vuitton. He designed a timelessly simple bucket shape, which could hold four bottles upright and a fifth upside down, secured with a supple leather drawstring. He called the bag Noé – in reference, it is said, to the biblical hero who, when he left the Ark after the flood, planted vines on the mountains of Ararat. The original Noé was crafted from natural leather, pale gold like the champagne it was destined to carry, and light as its exuberant ribbons of bubbles. Since then, Noé has appeared in many guises – most famously, of course, Louis Vuitton's emblematic Monogram canvas, which by the 1960s could at last be made supple enough to do justice to the bag's

generous forms. Today, Noé and its cousin Petit Noé can be found in a myriad incarnations, from DamierAzur to colorful Epi leather – each time different, yet still, somehow, the same. So, everybody knows Noé. But now there is a new Noé: Noé BB. Irresistibly cute, unmistakably contemporary, a diminutive replica of the original which comes with its own innovation: an extra-long shoulder strap that

enables it to be slung casually across the body. In Monogram or DamierAzur canvas and candy-bright Epi, Noé BB is just waiting to be discovered by a new generation. Will it, one day, like its larger namesake, be handed down from mother to daughter, its distinctive drawstring symbolic of an enduring bond of elegance?

Noé, Petit Noé, Noé BB. The legend lives on. □

